



The Resonator

Official Newsletter of The Fair Lawn (NJ) Amateur Radio Club

Volume 5, Number 10

www.FairLawnARC.org

October 2020

From The President

Dear members,

We're down to the last three months of 2020. What a ride it has been for all of us. Nevertheless, we have kept FLARC up and going, our members engaged, and providing activities that have kept us united. With that said, we continue looking forward. 2021 quickly approaches us and we must continue the momentum and also be prepared for whatever the new year will present.

As we mentioned in our business meeting this past Friday, unfortunately, we will not be able to have our annual auction at the Senior Center.

But we are already looking at an option to have our first FLARC Hamfest & Flea Market once spring arrives. We thank Gene, WO2W who will be our Hamfest Chairman and along with all those that have already volunteered (and those that will join in as well), I have no doubt this can be a major event for our Club. Let's work hard, and hopefully this can turn out to be an annual event for FLARC.

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New Member Profile

NAME: Jim Jalil

CALL: W2KNG

What do you do/what did you do for a living?

I was a corporate and securities lawyer, practicing at a New York law firm, until my retirement at the end of 2019. In addition, for the past 20 years, and continuing post my retirement, I have taught at Fordham Law School in New York as an Adjunct Professor. This Fall semester I am teaching two courses, Securities Regulation and Commercial Drafting, both online due to COVID-19.

How did you get interested in ham radio?

I suppose because I was first exposed to ham radio by a confirmed CW operator and avid DXer, both have always been my primary interest. I have always very much enjoyed chasing rare DX, as well as more leisurely QSOs with hams across the country and around the world. I also enjoy contests, but I would not say I am an avid competitive competitor. More recently I have begun to be much more active on VHF and am anxious to get up to speed and operate on digital modes, particularly FT-8. I'd also like to get more involved in ARES.

What does belonging to FLARC mean to you?

How do you/can you better contribute to the club?

I have very much enjoyed being a member of FLARC. Part of ham radio is camaraderie, enjoying the company of fellow hams. There is a unique bond among hams. We have our own language, our own special understanding of the technology and practice of radio and electronic communication.

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AFTER NEARLY 200 CONSECUTIVE NIGHTS, THE FAIR LAWN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB ENDS DAILY HEALTH AND WELFARE NET

The Fair Lawn Amateur Radio Club (FLARC) has ended its nightly health and welfare net, started at the onset of the coronavirus outbreak and lockdown.

The first-in-the-nation net devoted to the viral outbreak was closed on September 22nd after 193 consecutive nights by club President Nomar Vizcarrondo (call sign NP4H). He noted "Northern New Jersey suffered heavily during the initial outbreak with our county being locked down ahead of the rest of the state. The net was invaluable in keeping FLARC united and helping us stay together during the long period of lockdown. While the nightly net is coming to an end, we will continue to meet weekly and we're prepared to move again to a nightly format if conditions surrounding Covid-19 warrant".

The first "net" took place on Friday, March 13th, when we would have been at the club. Ron KC2TBD, Gene WO2W, Stan KC2K, and David KD2MOB were talking and Ron suggested we should have a daily net meeting especially during times of isolation. The four agreed and passed it to the Council and publicity committee.

The next night, 14 members and guests checked-in from New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Florida. The net grew to over 30 daily check-ins' during the late Spring from as far away as Okinawa and continued to average ten members and guests nightly during the week of close-down. The club was recognized for its rapid public service response to the pandemic and was featured on a *Ham Radio Nation* broadcast in April among other press mentions.

The last night of the net saw KD2MOB, WO2W, AC2ZU, W2KNG, NJ2BK, WX2R, KC2THB check in with Nomar NP4H as the final net control.

The new Wednesday night net will continue to operate beginning at 7PM local time on the W2NPT repeater (145.57- PL 167.9) in Fair Lawn and on NJ2BS (146.835- PL 151.4) in Pearl River, NY and via Echolink. The club's Monday night *Near and Far* net remains unchanged beginning at 8PM local time at the same locations.

Club kudos to Dave KD2MOB and Nomar KP4H for being net controls for the majority of net sessions. It's tough work to be committed to this activity for such a long period of time and the club owes much to their continuous effort to keep club members in touch. Also acting as net controls were Gene, WO2W; Jim, N2JLF, and also Brian, KD2KLN.

Thanks to all and to all who checked in as either members or guests.



Fellow FLARC Members,

As we all know, the coronavirus continues to be top of the news and that the club is closed until further notice. Out of an overabundance of caution and our care for your safety, all FLARC events are postponed until further notice due to COVID-19.

Check in on our nightly health and welfare net on the W2NPT repeater at 7:00 PM and let us know how you're doing. You may be isolated at this time but you are not alone. Stay safe!

Important notice for preventing COVID-19 outbreaks.

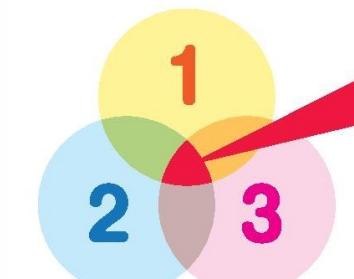
Avoid the “Three Cs”!

- 1. Closed spaces** with poor ventilation.
- 2. Crowded places** with many people nearby.
- 3. Close-contact settings** such as close-range conversations.



One of the key measures against COVID-19 is to prevent occurrence of clusters.

Keep these “Three Cs” from overlapping in daily life.



The risk of occurrence of clusters is particularly high when the “Three Cs” overlap!

In addition to the “Three Cs,” items used by multiple people should be cleaned with disinfectant.
Source: www.mhlw.go.jp

Nomar NP4H -- October 2020

The Club Fair Lawn ARC is the fastest growing ham club around, with five operating positions in a permanent clubhouse. Visitors and guests are always welcome. The club is open every Friday night from NLT 6:30 PM. Business meetings are the first Friday of the month at 7:30PM.

2020 Officers, Committees and Assignments

President	Nomar Vizcarrando	NP4H
Vice President	John L. Howard	W2JLH
Treasurer	Al Rasmussen	WA2OWL
Secretary	Randy Smith	WU2S
Trustee	Skip Barker	KD2BRV
Trustee	Ed Efchak	WX2R
Trustee	Don Cassarini	N2PRT
<i>Field Day</i>	Steve Wraga	WA2BYX
<i>Member Services</i>	Judith Shaw	KC2LTM
<i>Publicity</i>	Ed Efchak	WX2R
<i>Publicity</i>	Gene Ottenheimer	WO2W
<i>Publicity</i>	Judith Shaw	KC2LTM
<i>Publicity</i>	Susan Frank	W6SKT
<i>Program</i>	Lowell Vant Slot	W2DLT
<i>Publicity</i>	Karl Frank	W2KBF
<i>Publicity</i>	Nomar Vizcarrando <i>(ex officio)</i>	NP4H
<i>Social Media</i>	Dave Marotti	NK2Q
<i>Video/YouTube</i>	Thom Guida	W2NZ
<i>VE Liaison</i>	Gene Ottenheimer	WO2W
<i>VE Liaison</i>	Pete Senesi	KD2BMX
<i>Contests</i>	Lowell Vant Slot	W2DLT
<i>Education</i>	Gordon Beattie	W2TTT
<i>Education</i>	Randy Smith	WU2S
<i>Education</i>	John L. Howard	K2JLH
<i>Education</i>	Fred Wawra	W2ABE
<i>History</i>	Fred Belghaus	W2AAB
<i>Health and Welfare</i>	Judith Shaw	KC2LTM
<i>Photographer</i>	Don Cassarini	N2PRT
<i>W2NPT Trustee</i>	Paul Cornett	W2IP
<i>Technical</i>	Paul Cornett	W2IP
<i>Technical</i>	Randy Smith	WU2S
<i>Technical</i>	Fred Wawra	W2ABE
<i>RACES/ARES Director</i>	Dave Gotlib	KD2MOB
<i>RACES/ARES Liaison</i>	Steve Wraga	WA2BYX
<i>Newsletter Editor</i>	Ed Efchak	WX2R
<i>FL Town Liaison</i>	Gene Ottenheimer	WO2W
<i>Net Scheduler</i>	Brian Cirulnick	KD2KLN
<i>Quartermaster</i>	Brian Cirulnick	KD2KLN

Fair Lawn RACES/ARES Corner



Welcome to fall and with the change of seasons come the cooler temperatures, the fall foliage and the remainder of hurricane season. FL-ARES is ready to assist other ARES groups such as Bergen County ARES and Passaic County ARES during course of the year and were glad to assist with the SET (simulated emergency test) on Friday, September 18th and Saturday, September 19th. A big thank you goes to Jim N2JLF and Karl W2KBF using Winlink for emergency communications during the SET. I would also like to personally like to thank Gordon W2TTT Bergen County ARES DEC and Aly, Passaic County DEC for organizing and running the SET.

Please note the new time of the FL-ARES KB2FLA Nets. They are now taking place on Wednesdays at 2000 hours on the FLARC and NJ2BS Repeaters. Please join us every Wednesday for any updates, messages or activities which may take place. We plan on operating on Winlink and preparing traffic / messaging for our membership.

You may or may not be aware that the W2NPT Repeater is now linked to the NJ2BS Repeater through KD2BKD-L on Echolink. With the new link, our footprint in Bergen County as well as the surrounding area on the 2 meter band has expanded! A special thanks goes out to Gordon W2TTT who owns the NJ2BS Repeater and Bob KD2BKD for linking the repeaters. Also, a thank you goes to Paul W2IP for making it happen on the W2NPT end.

The Fair Lawn ARC Repeater info is: RX 145.47 MHz / TX 144.87, PL Tone 167.9 Hz. Echolink W2NPT-R. The NJ2BS Repeater info is: RX 146.835 MHz / TX 146.235, PL Tone 151.4 Hz. Echolink KD2BKD-L.

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MASTER EVENT CALENDAR

Out of an overabundance of caution and our care for your safety, (not to mention state law)
all FLARC events are postponed or rescheduled until further notice due to COVID-19.

- October 30, 2020 Monitor Talk: Paul Walker, "DXing From Alaska" Via Zoom Room
- November 13, 2020 Kawfee Tawk: Alan Wolke W2AEW "Intro to Nano VNA "
Via Zoom Room (TENTATIVE)
- December 18, 2020 FLARC Speaker Series: Ria Jairam N2RJ "The State Of The ARRL At Year
End" (Via Zoom Room)
- TBD Return Visit To iHeartRadio/WSUS transmitter
- TBD Field Trip to Sarnoff Center, Princeton
** 2nd Friday of month



More Than A Club... A Community Of Friends!



Hidetsugu Yagi's 130th Birthday Google Doodle

FLARC VEC Exams

Our next test sessions are scheduled October 17th beginning at 08:30 outdoors at the Recycling Center. Advanced registration is required. The fee is \$15.00 (cash only).

SEE PAGE 11 FOR FULL DETAILS.

Follow FLARC ON THE WEB

- Facebook: <http://facebook.FairLawnARC.org>
- Twitter: [@FairLawnARC](https://twitter.com/FairLawnARC)
- Blog: <http://blog.FairLawnARC.org>
- Youtube: <http://youtube.FairLawnARC.org>
- Website: <http://FairLawnARC.org>

Please bring positive identification (license, passport, etc.), your original license and a copy, original CSCE and a copy (if credit is needed).

The full exam schedule is on the club calendar at the FairLawnARC.org website. For further information contact VE-Liaison@FairLawnARC.org.

Please refer also to the "License Exams" link on the main website--

<http://bit.ly/FLARC-Testing>

Interested in Chasing DX?

A casual group of FLARCers including Van W2DLT, John KD2NRS, Brad KM2C, Karl W2KBF, Nomar NP4H, Steve WI2W, Jim W2JC, Larry WA2ALY and Fred W2AAB have formed an email group to keep each other in touch in (real) time of when the rare or interesting ones show up to chase.

Interested? See or contact Van W2DLT.

New POTA SIG Is Up and Running!

Noel W2MSA has stepped forward and offered to create and lead a Special Interest Group (SIG) on Parks on the Air (POTA). This group is open to all members of the FLARC groups.io group, regardless of experience.

Contact him at noelw2msa@gmail.com for more information on joining.

Or just go to the club website FairLawnARC.org and use the "Join Special Interest Group(s)" link on left.

Equipment Problem?

If you encounter a piece of club equipment, instrument or tool that is not working correctly or is broken in any way, we now have a Trouble Report form that you can use to describe the problem and report it to the Technical Committee -- who will arrange for repair.

2020 — The Year of (Distance) Learning!



Brad KM2C talks through the Flex equipment to kick off the Year of Learning back on January 10th

Please Note: Operating at W2NPT

Starting in January 2019 club trustees have sign-in sheets for all operating positions. There is a clipboard at Operating Position #1, #2 (digital) and #4 with a form on which to sign up for half-hour time slots. No longer first come-first served, in fairness to all who want to use our club equipment and the new antennas.

Get Direct With FLARC!

Here is a direct link to specific club info: just a click away!

<http://apparel.FairLawnARC.org>
<http://auction.FairLawnARC.org>
<http://blog.FairLawnARC.org>
<http://calendar.FairLawnARC.org>
<http://events.FairLawnARC.org>
<http://exams.FairLawnARC.org>
<http://facebook.FairLawnARC.org>
<http://news.FairLawnARC.org>
<http://swap.FairLawnARC.org>
<http://tech.FairLawnARC.org>
<http://youtube.FairLawnARC.org>

NEW !

<https://groups.io/g/FairLawnARC>



September 2020 Blog Traffic

With coronavirus dominating the news, both visitors and page views to the blog were down again this month. We've also done more email and groups.io to members.

	September 2020	September 2019	% Change
Views	340	599	-43 %
Visitors	138	321	-60 %
Posts	4	4	0 %

There is new content nearly every day so it's really worth the look at both FairLawnARC.org and the blog.

<http://blog.FairLawnARC.org>

October 2020 Near and Far Net Controls

Here is the roster for net controls for the upcoming month as reported by Brian KD2KLN:

Date	Net Control
October 5	KD2KLN
October 12	KD2MOB
October 19	You ??
October 26	N2AAM

The *Near and Far Net* had Patrick JS6UGC in Okinawa check in this month...our most distant yet.

But we need more volunteers to be net controls - if everyone takes their turn it's less burden on the others. And it's easy.

Volunteer --- don't wait to be asked (unless you really want to be flattered).

Ham Radio Is Contagious And It Won't Make You Sick!!

Oh No! Not Again! It's Almost Time For The 2021 FLARC Member Survey

With the coming of the falling leaves, it's time to start thinking again about the annual FLARC member survey. Hitting your email box again on December 1st, the survey gets a measure of the club's interests and activities for the coming year. Last year over 70% of members took part.

This year the survey promises to be shorter (right!) but much of the question input comes from members. What do you want to ask about 2021 activities and the operation of the club? Now is the time to have it included.

Drop an email to Ed WX2R at wx2r@arrl.net and he'll include it in the 2021 questionnaire. The 2020 survey is here:



Club Apparel — Get Them While They're RED!

Club apparel is always in vogue. Red is always "in" and your club friends all have them... you *want* a shirt or jacket for the next FLARC event! Great for Field Day!

Don't forget.... they're easy to order.
Go to www.hamthreads.com
or visit <http://apparel.FairLawnARC.org>

Check out the item selection that is posted on the FLARC website (with pictures and prices). Order the shirts or other items you want with either the regular FLARC logo or the still-cool 60th anniversary logo. Note: **RED** is the primary and preferred club standard shirt color.

And why not WEAR your nice red shirt when you come to the club, especially for meetings and events.



Al WA2OWL (L) and Dave NK2Q at the 2017 Annual meeting—nicely red!!

2020 FLARC Nets On The W2NPT Repeater:

Near and Far Net Mondays at 8PM

Health and Welfare Net Wednesdays at 7PM

W2NPT and NJ2BS Repeaters

Help Wanted

The Publicity Committee is looking for some new members to help continue to improve the marketing and promotion of the club, its activities and amateur radio. This is an active group so a willingness to participate is a strong plus. Experience in digital marketing and/or public relations is a plus.

Call Ed WX2R at 802-282-6700 or email him at wx2r@arrl.net if you're interested.

Thanks To All For Rejoining FLARC In 2020!!

BEQUEATHS AND DONATIONS

Planned gifts usually imply the family donation of amateur equipment to the club when someone has become a Silent Key. But it can be more. Club members might consider making a gift through a will or trust; gifts that help provide lifetime income to the club. Consult with your lawyer, estate planner or tax advisor if you feel such as gift is worthy.

About The Club

The Resonator is published monthly and is the official (and only) newsletter of The Fair Lawn Amateur Radio Club. FLARC was established in 1956 and has met continuously since inception. **The club is sponsored by the Borough of Fair Lawn.** The club meets every Friday at 6PM at the club station in The Fair Lawn Community Center, 10-10 20th Street, Fair Lawn, NJ. Business meetings are the first Friday of the month at 7:30 PM.

Visitors **ARE ALWAYS** welcome at our meetings.

FLARC operates the W2NPT repeater (145.470- PL 167.9) located high atop the Community Center. The analog repeater is open to all amateurs for use without restrictions.

The club has over one hundred paid members.
Dues are currently \$25 per year/\$20 for new members.

For more information, please see our website, at
<http://membership.FairLawnARC.org>

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A New Net Is Born!

The Health and Welfare Umbrella Net
Wednesdays
7PM Local
W2NPT and NJ2BS Repeaters
Open To All

PUBLICITY COMMITTEE NEWS

The Publicity Committee is seeking new members to help grow the club with its varied activities. Enthusiasm desired... no experience necessary. Contact Ed WX2R or any other committee member.



**FAIR LAWN'S
COMMUNICATIONS CENTER!
With New Antennas On The Roof!**



2020 Near and Far Net Check-In's

Now in its third year, the FLARC *Near and Far* net is chugging along each week. Here is list of our check-ins beginning on New Year's Night in no particular order. Mondays at 8PM on the repeater.

Call	Name
N2AAM	Dave
WO2W	Gene
W2DLT	Van
KD2MOB	Dave
W2JC	Jim
WI2W	Steve
N2SU	Bob
N2OEL	Noel
WX2R	Ed
W2AAB	Fred
KD2KLN	Brian
W2MSA	Noel
W2KBF	Karl
AC2ZU	Charlie
W3EH	George
KC2TBD	Ron
TG9AOR	Joe
N2OEL	Noel
N2JLF	Jim
W2TAB	Tom
KC2TBD	Ron
KA2YRA	Steve
WA2BYX	Steve
KD2BKD	Bob
KC2K	Stan
KA2YRA	Steve
WA2CCN	Hank
W2TTT	Gordon
NJ8Y	Ahmed
NJ2BK	Bruce
W2CQX	Dan
W2KNG	Jim
WK2T	Lee
W2NZ	Thom
K2PD	Don
KD2JIP	Dave
K2ZVL	Van
KC2ASA	Peter
W2AAB	Fred
KD2LRX	Jason
K3DQP	Walt
KD2TVZ	Ed

2019-20 Member Profiles

The year is now complete and here is a list of the 2019 monthly profiles. See past profiles elsewhere in *The Resonator* to check back in the archives to see each featured member's background.

Month	Name	Call Sign
January 2019	Dave	KD2JIP
February	Jim	K2ZO
March	Zach	KC2RSS
April	Bob	N2SU
May	Stan	KC2K
June	Steve	WA2BYX
July	Roger	K2RRB
August	Judith	KC2LTM
September	Chris	W2TU
October	Bob	N2SU
November	Bob	WA2ISE
December	Carol	KD2NMV
January 2020	Gordon	W2TTT
February	Chris	KD2JQZ
March	Glenn	KD2MDR
April	Steve	K2SAB
May	Ahmed	NJ8Y
June	Charlie	AC2ZU
July	Jim	N2JLF
August	Walt	K3DQB
September	Gregg	N2ECH
October	Jim	W2KNG

FLARC Auction Cancelled Due To Virus – Spring Hamfest Planned

Due to the continuing uncertainty due to Covid-19, the Council has decided to cancel its annual Thanksgiving Friday auction at the Senior Center.

Tentative plans are to hold an outdoor hamfest or some variation during the Spring of 2021 according to Gene WO2W.

Stay tuned as to future plans that this change represents.

Past FLARC Member Profiles

Here is a list of past member features and we welcome your recommendations for new profiles -- including your own.

Month	Name	Call Sign
January 2016	Pete	KB2BMX
February	Marco	KC2ZMA
March	Ron	KC2TBD
April	Kai	K2TRW
May	Larry	WA2ALY
June	Dave	N8MAR
July	Steve	WI2W
August	Thom	W2NZ
September	Brian	KD2KLN
October	Brad	KM2C
November	Al	WA2OWL
December	George	W3EH
January 2017	Fred	W2ABE
February	Dave	KD2MOB
March	Randy	WU2S
April	Lee	KD2DRS
May	Gene	WO2W
June	Carol	KD2NMV
July	Kevin	KC2KCC
August	Robert	KD2NOG
September	Robert	KD2BKD
October	John	KD2NRS
November	Fred	W2AAB
December	Margaret	W2GB
January 2018	Brian	KD2OAZ
February	Bennett	KO2OK
March	Van	W2DLT
April	Aly	ALØY
May	Bruce	NJ2BK
June	Dave	N2AAM
July	Karl and Susan	W2KBF and W2SKT
August	Steve	KA2YRA
September	Paul	K2PJC
October	Skip	KD2BRV
November	Jim	W2JC
December	Tom	N2AAX

By the way, Randy (WU2S) has compiled a binder of all back issues of *The Resonator* and it's located in the club office. Thanks Randy!!!

Blood Donors Needed In This Time Of Emergency

The Red Cross and related organizations are in great need for blood donations since most corporate blood drives have been cancelled.

Communitybloodservices.com has a network of offices open during the week and would really welcome folks making appointments to donate blood.

Thanks!



**American
Red Cross**

Nominations Are In Order For The FLARC Council

During the September FLARC business meeting the Nominating Committee presented its suggested slate for the 2021 club year (see meeting notes for details).

It's a club tradition that the nominating process is an open one with additional nominations for officers and trustees coming from the floor.

The change in by-laws starting this year allows for a longer nomination process which culminates in the election of officers at the December annual business meeting.

It's in all our best interests to have members who run the club to be active, enthusiastic and willing to give the time and effort it takes to make this the best club in the state.

So use this time to bring additional candidates to the October and November business meetings and let's have the best slate possible for 2021.



SPECIAL RELEASE:

AMATEUR RADIO TESTING AT THE FAIR LAWN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

On October 17, 2020, Fair Lawn Amateur Radio Club will continue amateur radio test sessions on a trial basis. These sessions will be held in the commuter parking lot of the **Fair Lawn Recycling Center**. The location is at 19-25 Saddle River Road, Fair Lawn, NJ 07410. Inclement weather will cancel testing.

There will be two sessions each day. Session 1 is at 09:00 AM and session 2 starts at 10:15 AM. A document will be provided to you prior to the date to indicate the session assigned to you. You must have it with you to take the test. When you arrive, please tune your FM radio to 87.9 so you can listen to instructions.

Prior to Testing:

Send an email to wo2w@arrl.net requesting to book your spot.

Upon Arrival:

Stay in your vehicle as you will be directed to an assigned parking space. **Expect to remain in your vehicle for the duration. (Note NO BATHROOMS ARE AVAILABLE)**. You must have a government issued ID such as a valid driver's license or passport, and 3 completed copies of the FCC CSCE (Certificate of Successful Completion Exam) form.

Please Bring With You:

- You **MUST bring and WEAR personal PPE items including a face mask, and gloves.**
- 2 pens and 2 pencils, None will be provided to you due to possible virus transmission.
- A clipboard or a hard surface to write on and be visible to the volunteer examiners.
- Your FRN number, and (if licensed) a copy of your ham license or a valid CSCE.
- A completed form 605 (which will be sent to you ahead of your test session)
- Additionally, the **\$15.00 exam fee**. This is payable in cash (exact amount is a must).

The Testing Procedure:

- Testing will be performed in your personal vehicle. **You must remain in your vehicle for the duration of the event.**
- Only the candidate testing may remain in the vehicle--**do not bring any passengers/supporters with you.**
- Please clear front area of vehicle of all paperwork, computers, cell phones, etc. anything which could be used to hold answers to test questions. **Turn off cell phones and place in glove box or out of reach.**
- **Windows must be rolled down** an inch or two so proctors can hear inside the vehicle.
- A masked/gloved Volunteer Examiner will be handing out and picking up tests from each vehicle. **The Volunteer examiner must be able to see you during the whole test.** If at any time you feel unsafe, please feel free to abort the test, return the test materials and safely leave the testing area.
- Let's protect each other....and good luck!
- For information and scheduling, please contact:
- Gene/WO2W
- WO2W@arrl.net
- Visit our website at www.FairLawnARC.org

Member Profile, continued

It doesn't matter where you come from, who you are, what your background is – if you're a ham you're part of a special group of people, and a friend of mine. Sometimes it is just a sense of feeling comfortable being around other ham radio operators that is enjoyable. To me that is what is best about a ham radio club and what is best about FLARC.

As a newer member I have enjoyed participating in the Health and Welfare net on 2 meters. I think the best way any member, but especially a newer member, can contribute to the club is to be active and involved in club activities.

What should be the club's priorities in the next year?

The first priority, it seems to me, is to get the club back in full operation after COVID-19 has been defeated. This would include a robust panel of speakers, social events and gatherings. I also think active subgroups are important way to meet and foster members' specific interests. Perhaps more educationally oriented programs would be well received, introducing members to new technologies and areas with which they may not be familiar but have an interest. One of the best aspects of ham radio is learning new technologies and modes of operation.

What else can you tell the club about yourself and/or ham radio?

My wife and I have lived in Ramsey for many years. We have two daughters, both married and living in the area, and four granddaughters ranging in ages from 8 to 16.

I enjoy playing golf and love the game, though more often than not the game doesn't love me back.

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FLARC September 12, 2020 VE Testing Results

With VE testing back on a trial basis, Gene WO2W reports the following results:

Name	Call	License Earned
Mark Flore		Technician
Glenn Koenig		Technician
David Politowski	KD2ULF	General
Robert M Oppelt	WA2LMH	General
Edmund E Sherman		Technician
Joshua Biddle	KD2UQY	Technician
Alexander V Fernandez		Technician
John Kalymnios	KD2ULH	General

Testing for October is still tentative at this time pending weather and availability. See the FLARC website for the latest details.

Four Special Interest Groups [SIGs] Already Formed: Any Others?

We may be in lockdown but there is no lack of club interest. So far, the Radio Monitoring Group has 18 members and we've started a Digital Modes (DMR) group thanks to KD2DRS and NP4H. There is also an FT8 SIG and a POTA SIG headed up by Noel W2MSA.

Other possible groups, from the member survey, include:

- *Radio Propagation*
- *Antennas and how they work*
- *Kit building*
- *Raspberry pi and Arduino and*
- *Ham radio software*
- *DXing*

Anyone interested in leading any of these groups... ? Please contact Nomar NP4H.

**Here Comes The Sun
Hello Solar Cycle 25!**

Working 2 Meter Sideband

Brian Cirulnick KD2KLN

When you read the words "2 meter band" most hams will automatically think FM and repeaters. But, there is activity at the bottom of the 2-meter band that is Single Sideband, and no repeaters involved - just like HF. Sideband signals travel much further than FM, and the higher-gain antennas that tend to be used in this activity allow distances no FM system could ever compete with. Yes, it is possible to travel several grid squares on 2-meter, but as with everything ham radio related, you need to have the proper equipment.

All you need to tune in is a radio that supports this mode and an appropriate antenna. Building a small 2m Yagi is pretty easy especially when compared to the enormous size of most HF antennas, and while most HF rigs support the 6 meter band, you may have to work a little harder to own a radio that gets 2 meter sideband, although any all-band, all-mode radio will support it. As with HF, your antenna should be horizontally polarized for greatest efficiency.

SSB activity is generally from 144.100 to 144.300 depending upon where you live (as long as you aren't interfering with other stations), but most "phone" activity is from 144.200 to 144.275 - just 75khz to play in (unless you know CW).

And yet, every morning from about 7am to 9am, you'll hear local stations on 144.205 trying to make contact with one another. And by "local" I mean stations from Maine to Virginia. Ragchew nets are also abundant. Point your antenna towards NYC on Sunday Morning at 9:30am, and you'll hear a strong net out of Queens, run by Bill AA2TT. You'll hear his signal rise and fall as he rotates his antenna about, looking for check ins. Within the NYC Metro area, Bill's signal is so powerful you can hear and talk to him with just a regular vertical antenna. Another net you might pick up is the New England Weak Signal group, Thursday nights at 8:30pm. And above 144.250, you might also be able to pick up beacons, such as K3CX at 144.273.

2 Meter Sideband is a lesser-known area of the Ham Bands that is relatively easy to access, and may be gaining in popularity due to the new Icom IC-9700, and you can take part in it with just a Technician license. Plus there are Spring and Fall ARRL VHF contests, which really spike activity. It doesn't take much to get in on the fun!

Resources:

<http://www.newsvhf.com/vhfnets.html>
<http://aprs.mennolink.org/>
<http://www.newsvhf.com/>
<https://www.2meternet.com/>
<http://www.newsvhf.com/beacons2.html>

-- Listing of VHF SSB Nets
-- 2 meter propagation map
-- Website for "North East Weak Signal Group"
-- Website for "The Sunday Morning Net"
-- List of VHF Beacons



Right now, probably the cheapest way to experience 2M SSB is the all-mode, all-band Yeasu FT-817,
unless you can find a cheap vintage 2M-only all-mode rig at a hamfest.

The Old Receiver – A Halloween Story

By The Old-Timer

Years ago, I was told a story by another old timer who once lived in town. He was not the sort of guy to make up stories. He didn't have the imagination to do that. Nevertheless, he told me that a certain ham, living nearby, was an inveterate tinkerer who liked to build his own equipment, and repair old receivers that were "basket cases." He enjoyed this last activity especially, considering such work a challenge to his skills as troubleshooter.

Well, one time, this tinkerer went to a hamfest, and after meandering down row upon row of common looking equipment, and finding nothing of interest to him, he happened upon one table in the last row, with a lone seller standing before a table with old parts on it. Seeing nothing of particular interest on the table, he was about to move on again, but under the table, there was a carton with what looked like a very old receiver inside.

"What's that?" the tinkerer asked, pointing to the box under the table.

"I think it's some kind of radio. It's from an estate. Are you interested in it?"

"I might be. Let's take a look at it."

The seller pushed the carton forward along the ground, until it lay just in front of the table. Then he cleared a space on his table so his potential customer could examine it. The tinkerer reached down, took it out of the box, and laid it down on the table in the space recently cleared.

He studied it carefully. It was, indeed, an old receiver; but one like he'd never seen before in all his efforts at repair — and it was, indeed, a "basket case." Rust covered the bottom of the cabinet, and when he loosened three thumbscrews on the front panel, and pulled the chassis out from it, he saw that some tubes were missing. The power transformer laminations were very rusty, and there was no speaker. The power cord was brittle, and as he handled it, it disintegrated in his hands.

"Hmm, no speaker," the tinkerer said.

"Yeah, there is one. At least I think it might be for it. It was lying on top of this thingamajig when I found it in this old guy's basement." The seller handed over another, smaller carton that had been hidden in the trunk of his car.

Oh boy, thought the tinkerer. It's an old fashioned voice-coil speaker, the kind that requires voltage on the coil to act as both an electromagnet for the speaker while also serving as power supply choke. He hoped the coil wasn't open, or shorted. At least the cable assembly and the terminals for connecting to the receiver chassis were in good shape. Then he faced the seller with a small complaint.

"Gee, I got to admit, this thing really is in bad shape," the tinkerer said, hoping for a lower price.

The Old Receiver--A Halloween Story

"If you want it, I'll take five bucks for it — with the speaker."

"I don't know—it's a real mess."

There was something familiar about the receiver, though. The two dial windows and knobs across the front looked something like an early Hammarlund. But it wasn't a Hammarlund. What could it be? Maybe a homebrew copy of one? The thought intrigued him. Mentally, the tinkerer calculated how he might at least use it for parts if he ever found another like it, or something similar.

Restoration was possible, but it would take a lot of work and a lot of parts replacement.

"Look, I don't want to lug that thing home again," said the seller. "Gimme a buck for it, and it's yours."

"With the speaker?"

"Yeah, *with the speaker.*"

Not one to pass up such a deal, and the challenge it presented, the tinkerer reached in his back pocket, and handed the seller a dollar bill.

"Okay, chum, but no returns. I don't want you complaining that you couldn't get it working, or...."

"No, no, I know," said the tinkerer, "I'll be a challenge to work on, though."

So the tinkerer hauled his find, and the speaker, back to his car and sped home, thinking all the way about his new project. First, he'd have to identify it; and then, hopefully, find a schematic. If he was lucky, he might even locate a service manual. But that was probably too much to ask, he thought.

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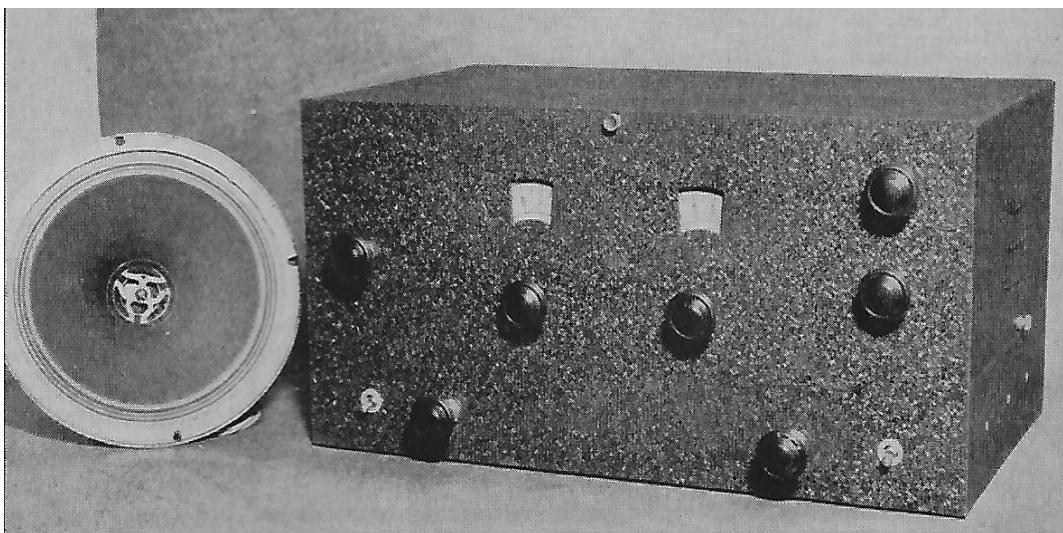
For the next couple of weeks, the tinkerer scoured old copies of *QST* and *Radio* magazine, hoping to identify the old receiver from advertising. Then, he hit pay dirt. In the June, 1934 edition of *Radio* there was an ad for it from the custom radio builder McMurdo Silver in Chicago. It was the model "5B Super," an 8-tube superhet covering 1550 kHz to 30 MHz. It had a tuned RF stage, 2 detector stages, and 2 IF stages with a BFO (Beat Frequency Oscillator). It was general coverage, with bandspread tuning on every range. The claimed sensitivity was "better than 1 microvolt," a pretty impressive claim for 1934. The ad said it sold for \$59.70, which doesn't seem like much today, but in 2020 dollars, that would be equal to more than \$1,100 now.

Further searching brought the tinkerer to the December, 1933 issue of *Radio*. On page 23, there was an article by McMurdo Silver himself entitled, "A New Low Cost Commercial-Amateur Single Signal Super-Het." The article described the model 5B in detail, and even included a schematic. Wow! What fantastic luck, the tinkerer thought. But the schematic was purposely small, and he wondered whether it would be able to help restore this gem of antiquity.

The Old Receiver -- A Halloween Story

Using a large magnifying glass, he was able to read the schematic quite well. Then, he brought the magazine to a local copy shop and enlarged the image so that it could easily be read without further magnification.

Inspecting the receiver on the workbench, he discovered that the coils all seemed to be in good condition. That was fortunate, because there were three coil sets of three windings, primary and secondary, for a total of 18 windings in all. The I.F. transformers looked okay, too; but they would have to be realigned, and all the old capacitors replaced. Probably many resistors too. The power cord needed replacement, along with the power transformer, as well as all the tubes. He had his work cut out for him, all right; but the tinkerer, being the adventurous type, looked upon the challenge eagerly.



McMurdo-Silver 5B with speaker
Image: *Radio magazine*, June, 1934

He started at once, changing out what he could, re-wiring the power cord, and fortunately, finding a close enough replacement for the power transformer that he thought ought to work. The tubes were the easiest to replace. He already had quite a store of them in his "junkbox."

Then, he sanded the rust off the bottom of the cabinet and repainted it. He cleaned the whole cabinet and the knobs, and the old receiver looked good as new. He felt mighty proud of his efforts, and he could hardly wait to turn it on for the "smoke test." Amazingly, the whole process had taken only three weeks to complete. He couldn't help but wonder how this venerable old classic would stack up after restoration.

He did a quick resistance check of the speaker voice-coil, and there was perfect continuity, verified by a clicking sound from the speaker as his ohmmeter applied a few volts to it. He then checked the inductance of the voice-coil, and it measured a few Henries, enough to work as a power supply choke, too. This was good news, because rewinding an old voice-coil would be a long, tedious process. He didn't have an enclosure for the speaker, so he just laid it on top of the receiver, as the former owner evidently had done.

The Old Receiver -- A Halloween Story

Now it was time for the acid test. He plugged the power cord into a little gadget he had built some years before. It was a simple circuit, using a 100 watt light bulb to act as a "fuse," just in case his replacement power transformer was shorted or open. Then, plugging this gadget into the AC outlet, he gently turned on the power. No short was indicated, and no open. The pilot lights in each of the tuning dial windows lit up. So far, so good, he thought. He'd forgotten to add an antenna, though, so he clipped a jumper wire to the coax center conductor of his 40 meter dipole, and the speaker burst forth with band noise. Voila!

The receiver was set on the 160 meter band, but down, below 1800 kHz. He remembered that in the 1930s, the band started at 1750; and the band edge only changed after World War II. Perhaps the former owner hadn't used the receiver on any band since then? The tinkerer switched to 80 meters, and began tuning up from the low end with the BFO turned on.

There were lots of CW stations, all of them using straight keys or bugs. There was a traffic net a little way up the band, with many check-ins from New England. One of the calls he recognized as a famous ARRL staffer. But wait a minute — he knew that call, all right; but the guy that held that call had died years ago. Oh, well, he thought, it must be a re-issue. The FCC does that sometimes.

Then he tuned up in frequency to the 75 meter phone band, and found another anomaly. All the signals were AM. What happened to all the sideband? There was something else odd, although he didn't think of it at the time. As he moved up from the CW band, there were no stations using RTTY or any digital modes. He wondered why not.

As he listened on 75, he stopped on the frequency of a strong station. The modulation was rich and full, almost High-Fi quality. When this station turned it over to the other station, the tinkerer's jaw dropped. He knew the call and the voice. It was someone he had known many years ago, who had died in an auto accident when they were both college students.

Was someone playing a cruel trick on him? If not, then what? A cold chill ran down the tinkerer's back.

He got up from his workbench stool, paced around the workshop, and lit a cigarette.

Listening again, the station he recognized as his old friend described a new rig he was planning to build, using a pair of Eimac 100-THs. That tube hadn't been made in many years, but was most popular in the 1930s.

The tinkerer began to doubt his senses. How could he be hearing these signals?



Image:

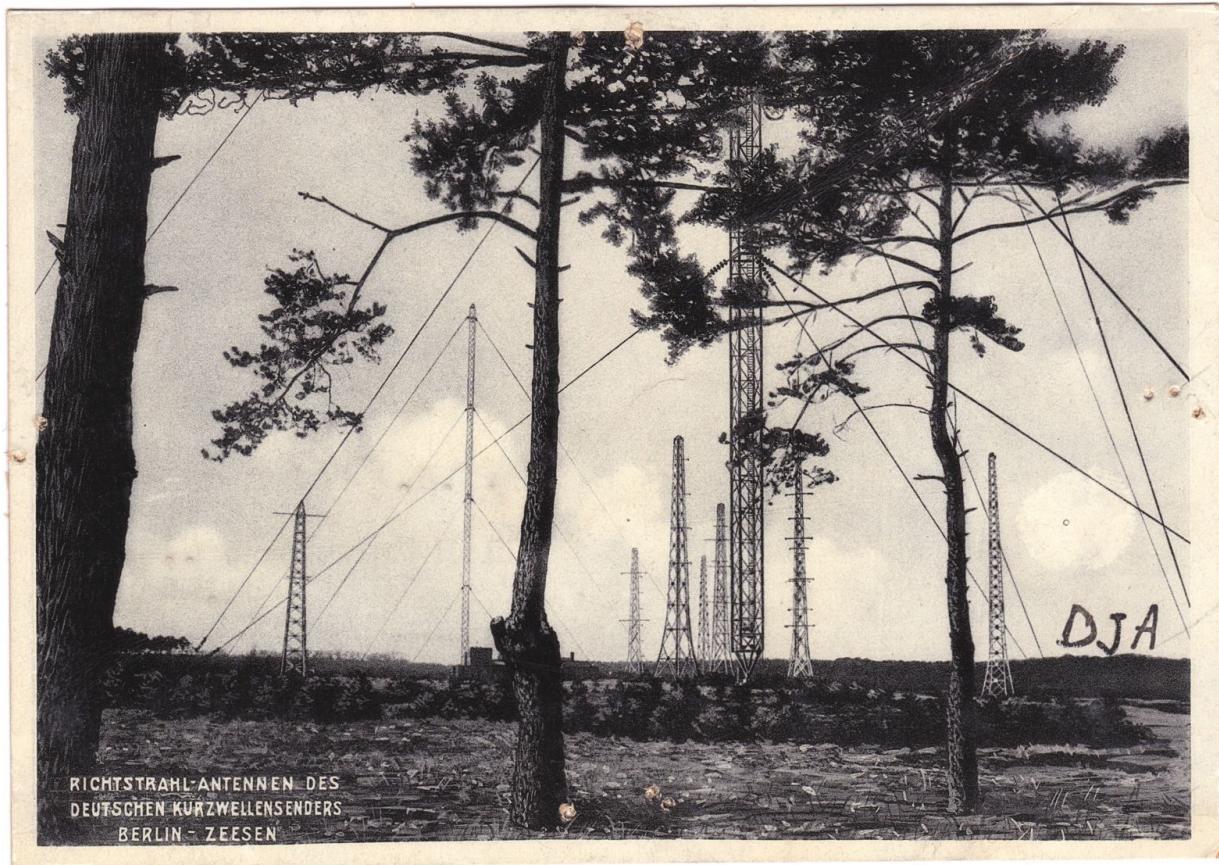
<http://www.r-type.org/exhib/aaq0385.htm>

The Old Receiver -- A Halloween Story

He wasn't a drinking man, and he certainly wasn't smoking anything stronger than a filter-tipped cigarette. He knew he wasn't dreaming, either. There had to be a rational explanation, but... what?

He changed frequency to the 6 MHz broadcast band. The band was loaded with strong signals, several from Europe. He settled on the BBC, and listened for the news. On the hour, and the sound of Big Ben, the news began. The lead story was: "Hitler Invades Poland."

Again, thinking this was either a joke or a "historical re-enactment" program, he tuned again, until he found a station speaking German. The announcer intoned, "Hier ist Berlin...Hier ist Berlin," followed by references to "Reichskanzler Hitler..." and this was followed by a lengthy speech by Adolf himself!



QSL card from DJA, Berlin, 1935

The tinkerer turned down the volume, and stared off into space. A dark cloud seemed to envelop him in a shroud of disbelief and, yes, *terror*. Somehow, he had entered a time warp, back to the year 1938.

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I've already said that the tinkerer wasn't a drinking man. Nevertheless, he went upstairs, found a bottle of bourbon reserved for New Year's Eve celebrations, and filled a shot glass with its contents. He downed the glass in one gulp, coughed loudly, and then he returned to the basement workshop. He thought, there's one final test. He decided to see whether he could actually work the stations he'd heard on the ham bands; stations active in 1938, but that somehow found their way into his old receiver.

The Old Receiver -- A Halloween Story

He connected an unused long-wire antenna to the receiver, and then fired up a little homebrew CW rig on 40 meters using an 807 final, running crystal control with about 25 watts to his 40 meter dipole. That ought to be enough power to be heard, he figured. Then he found his crystal frequency on the receiver, intending to call CQ. But before he could, somebody else started calling CQ right on frequency. It was a W8 call, and the station made contact with a W2. The W8 was located in Pittsburgh. Oh, yes, that's right—in 1938, the 8th call area included Western Pennsylvania.

He waited for the QSO to end, and then he called the W8. The W8 answered with only a series of question marks. He called again, and this time, the W8 only replied, "QRT QRT GET A LICENSE BOOTLEGGER."

Then it occurred to him that his 2-by-1 Extra Class call would have sounded quite impossible in 1938. No wonder the W8 thought he was a bootlegger!

Well, he'd proved one thing, at least. Not only could he hear stations from 1938 — somehow, he could also work them! He wished he hadn't dropped his old W2 call and traded it for the new one. That would have made quite a QSO, especially if he'd gotten a QSL card!

Just then, the tinkerer smelled something burning. Looking up, he saw a thin line of white smoke pouring out of the back of the receiver. He quickly turned off the power and disconnected the power cord. After waiting awhile, he opened the receiver, and had a look inside. The smoke had come from the receiver's TRF oscillator coil. It was burnt to a crisp, blackened beyond hope of repair.

He remembered that he had not used an antenna changeover relay to switch from receive to transmit. The receiving antenna was only a few feet away from the 40 meter dipole, with enough of it parallel to the dipole to pick up quite a large RF voltage when he transmitted. Evidently, there was enough voltage delivered to the ancient and now quite fragile TRF oscillator coil to ruin it!

"Damn! I should have thought of that!" he said out loud.

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Weeks went by, and then months. The tinkerer searched in vain for a replacement coil, or at least enough coil winding data for it so that he could make one. Even years later, he could never find either.

The tinkerer passed away some years ago, and his widow sold all of his radio equipment to another guy who in turn brought it to another hamfest. I'd like to think that somewhere, someone may now have that old receiver. I wonder whether its new owner ever found a replacement coil, and if so, whether there were still 1938 signals coming out of its speaker. We'll never know, but I suspect that it remains silent to this day, keeping its secrets of time travel to itself.

*There are more things in heaven and earth, Horatio
Than are dreamt of in your philosophy.
Hamlet, Act 1, Scene 5, 167-8*

How Many Tubes Did You Say?

This past year I briefly dabbled with “boat anchors,” something I had not done since those rigs were new.

With an urge (a pretty mild urge) to put my novice station back together for a trip down memory-lane, I put an SX-110, DX-20 and VF-1 on my look-to-buy list. It was something of a whim; I had low expectations of accomplishment. It made for a nice daydream.

To get the setup more complete I would need a straight key – I still had that from 1961 (Figure 1) and a Vibroplex Blue Racer if I wanted to get myself up to “General Class” circa 1962. By 1963 I had built a 150 watt amplifier from April, 1961 QST. In the article it ran a pair of 1625s – I opted for a pair of 807s – the same tube with a 6V filament instead of a 12V filament. The Fair Lawn, NJ town dump yielded a TV set power transformer that had a 6V winding for filaments and high voltage windings that were about right for B+. 807s cost next to nothing - a necessity since my sole revenue came from a small paper route. The amplifier article can be found in the QST archives.

I will spare you the details and summarize my nostalgia adventure:

- I saw a DX-20 at the Orlando hamfest and HAD to have it. I was told it was working fine. I got it home and discovered it had no tubes. Checking the power transformer I burned up my VOM. I'd forgotten about high voltage. I bought a new top-of-the-line (a life's investment) analog VOM with a 1,000 volt scale. It dawned on me my thousands-of-parts junk box contained NO PARTS for boat anchors. Interestingly, the DX-20 had two wiring errors. For 60 years it had never worked. W4AX provided the tubes I needed (thanks Mack). I got it on the air and made some contacts. I marveled at how simple it was and how good Heathkit's engineering was.
- I begged and borrowed crystals. Thanks N4DK and K5TF.
- I bought a VF-1 VFO just as someone gave me a second one for free.
- K8EAB tossed me a DX-40 to refurbish. That was fun and I had a VOM (the only test gear you need) to get it done. I made a few QSOs and returned it.
- I volunteered to get W4KLY's two tube transmitter back on the air - one he had built 40 years ago that needed new filter capacitors and a little tweaking. I made some QSOs on 40 with Paul's transmitter, including one with a ZL. Output: 22 watts. My favorite QSO: Me: “Rig here OM is an MOPA, 6AG7 and 6L6.” Reply: “I think you may be sending me tube numbers but I have no idea what that is.”
- I gave away one of the VF-1s, then gave the DX-20, the second VF-1 and all the crystals to QRP aficionado W4QO.

At that point I lost interest but I had spent \$500 on a Begali bug as a replacement for the Blue Racer

Around the Shack, continued

given me by W2MOF (sk) in 1962. I am using the Begali with modern gear and my proficiency is returning. I can now, once again, be identified by my fist – for the first time in 40 years.

So, what's the point of this month's column? I became amazed at how easy it is to get on the air with two tubes. The DX-20 had a 6CL6 oscillator and a 6DQ6 final. Paul Kelly's home-brew MOPA (master oscillator, final amplifier) uses a 6AG7 oscillator and a 6L6 output stage. I wrote in the present tense because Paul is making contacts with it as I write this. Add a one-tube Heathkit VF-1 VFO and you can operate anywhere on 10 through 80 meters. I even got the DX-20 onto the WARC bands without modification.

Here is a bit of nostalgia. I'd like to suggest reading about the Trans-Atlantic Tests of 1921, as described in QST, February, 1922. It's on-line in the QST archives. What was the first ham transmitter to reliably make it across the Atlantic and to later go on to shatter many distance records? It was an MOPA!

The transmitter used a UV-204 tube as the oscillator and three more UV-204s in parallel as the output stage, for an output power of 1KW on 1.5 MHz. I count the three tubes in parallel as one big tube in a 2-tube transmitter. The callsign was 1BCG; the station was in Connecticut. "Two tube transmitter" or "two transistor transmitter" does not necessarily mean QRP. Think about an entire transmitter, made with only two tubes, producing 1KW! I first read about it in the 1960s and still find it amazing. That transmitter was built 100 years ago.

My rig these days is an FTdx5000. Just one of the ICs in that rig could easily have 50,000 transistors in it and that rig is full of ICs.

A vacuum tube and a transistor are the same for this discussion. They are discrete devices that amplify or switch. That's it. You or I can make contacts with two transistors or two vacuum tubes, yet today's modern rigs use tens of thousands of them. The same goes for receivers. My SX-110 had six tubes in it (not counting the noise blanker tube). The noise blanker function added one more tube, a dual-diode type 6H6. The noise blanker in the 1959-designed SX-110 performs the same function in the same way with the same performance level as many current rigs do, except current rigs use god-knows how many parts and lines of code. We have come a long way, but have we gotten anywhere?

K8EAB got his DX-40 as a gift. I got one of my VF-1s for free. Putting a 2-tube radio on the air can cost little or nothing. Try it if you get a chance. You may be surprised (or reminded) how much you can do with so little.



Figure 1. My first and only key. Used for code practice in 1960 and my Novice days (1961). Callsign WV2QPW. It is still used occasionally on the air. The heavy steel base was a gift from Frank Leonard, W2NPT, in early 1960.

Around the Shack, continued

You may be rewarded too. I appreciate my FTdx5000, but I had more fun with my DX-20 this year.

In an area unrelated to Ham Radio I am working on an essay about wants and needs. Sure, we want the transceive function, low drift, an accurate frequency readout, etc. But do we need them? No. No we don't.

73,
Hal N4GG



The new parking lot expansion at Fair Lawn NJ Recreation Center



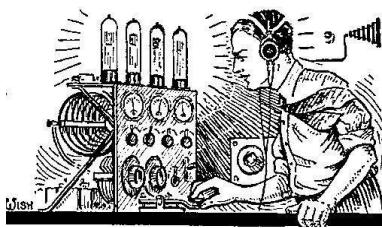


Image from May, 1926 QST, courtesy ARRL

The Way We Were
By Fred Belghaus W2AAB

Ghouls, Ghosts, Monsters, Witches and Assorted Weirdness

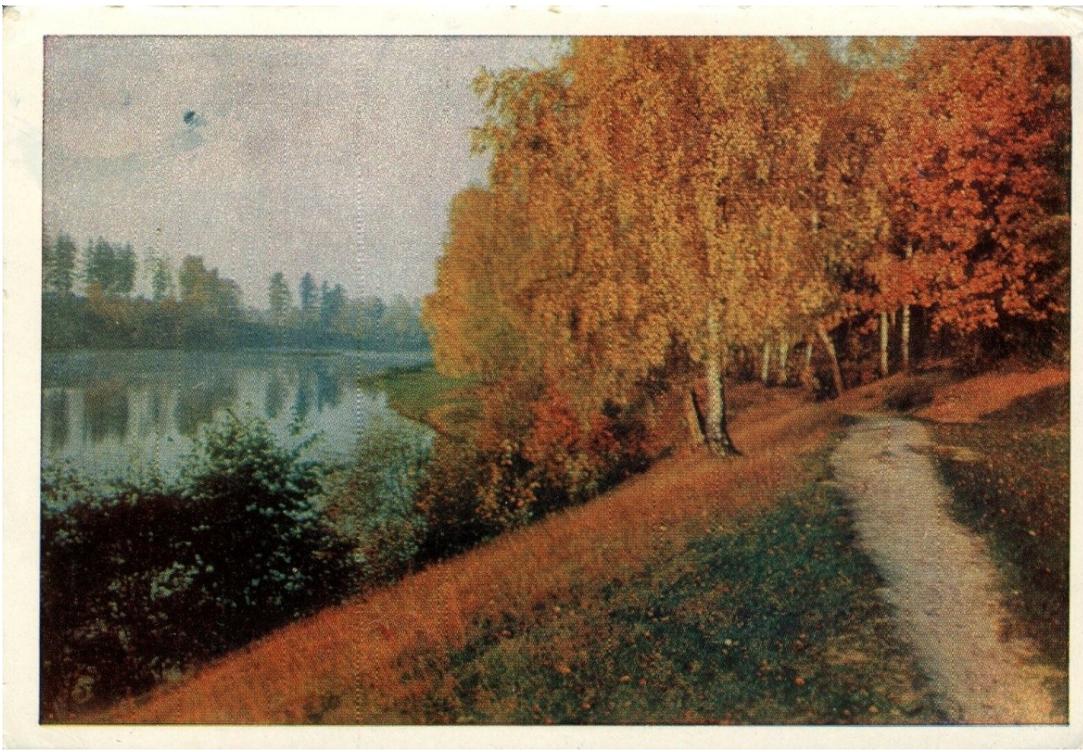
The days are shorter, the nights are cooler, the frost is on the pumpkin, and strange things go ‘bump’ in the night. Welcome to October! How better to celebrate this month of high strangeness than with a look at how the “spirit” of the time has been reflected on some amateur radio artwork on QSL cards.

To get us in the mood, here are some pleasant, bucolic scenes of autumn from different parts of the world. The first is from W3EDA of Hagerstown, Maryland. It is dated September 29, 1957, and shows “Hager’s Fancy,” the fieldstone home of Jonathan Hager, built in 1740. Hager was a German immigrant and Captain in the French and Indian Wars. He was the man who gave the city of Hagerstown its name.

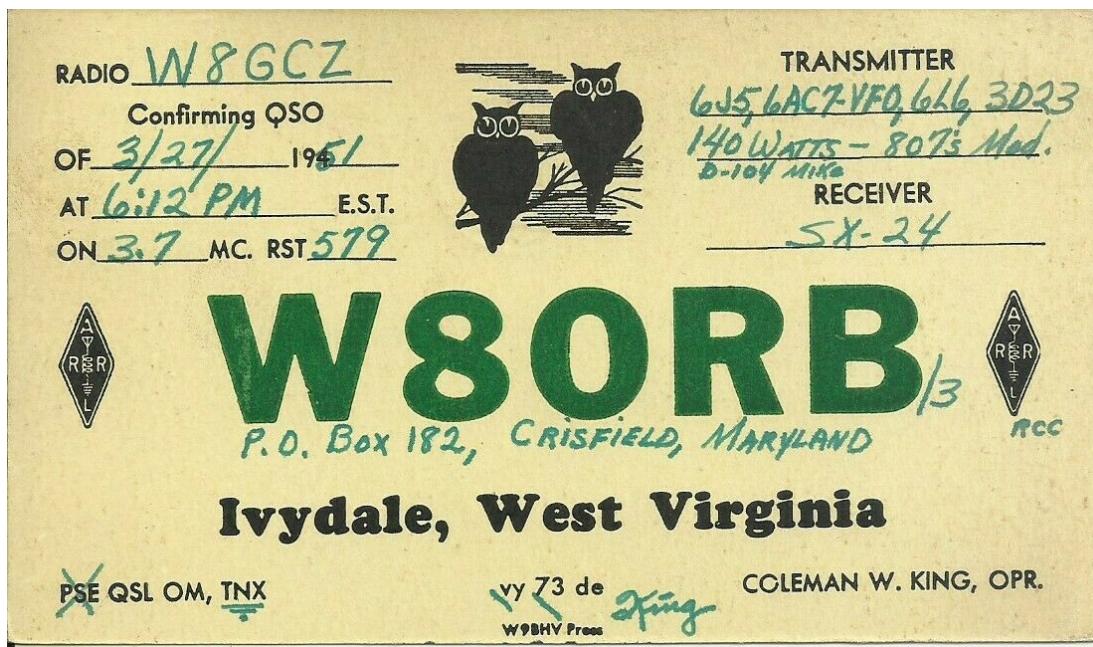


The Way We Were, continued

Or this lovely scene of fall colors on a card from UA4PZ, showing a scene in a park just outside Moscow, Russia, in 1966...



But W8ORB's card from 1951 in Ivydale, West Virginia, features a pair of owls, always considered mysterious creatures, keeping watch for potential prey, especially at this time of year.



The Way We Were, continued

KØLJO from Bloomington, Minnesota has the spirit of things captured in this card from 1969. He's the Lighted Jack O'Lantern.

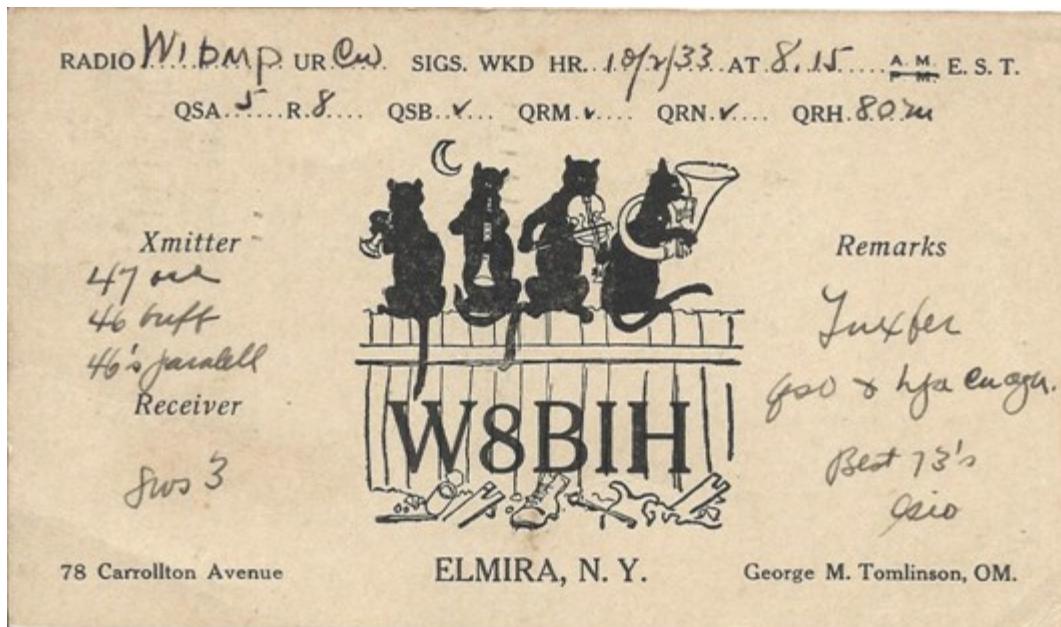


And what would Halloween be without some black cats crossing your path, as on this 1955 card from W9CAT?

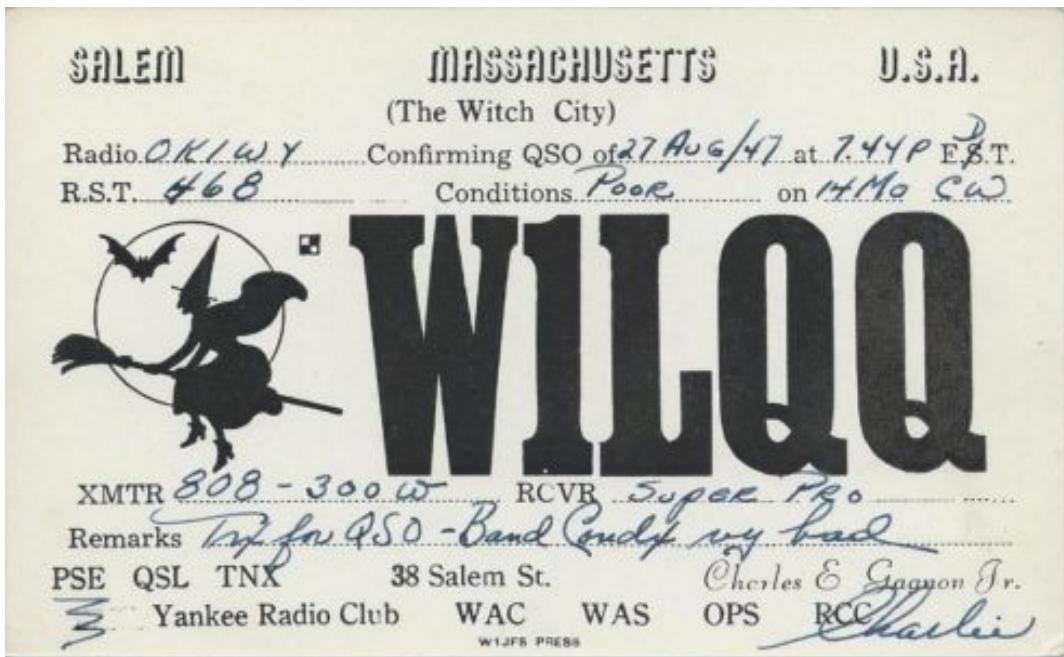


The Way We Were, continued

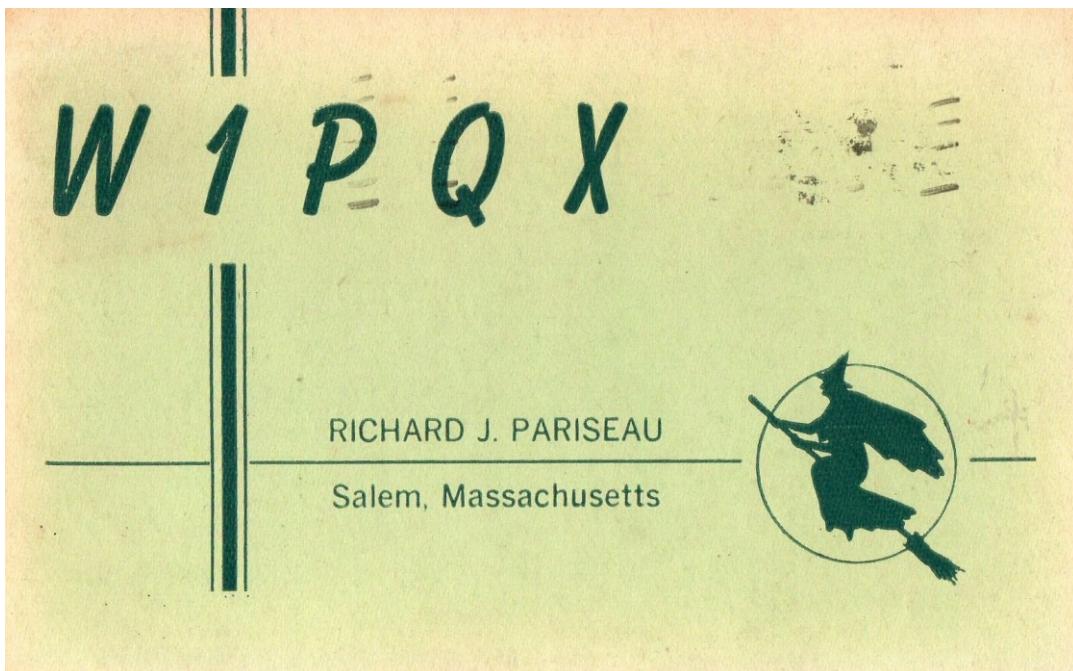
...Or how about being serenaded by a quartet of mysterious, fence-sitting felines, like on this 1933 card from W8BIH?



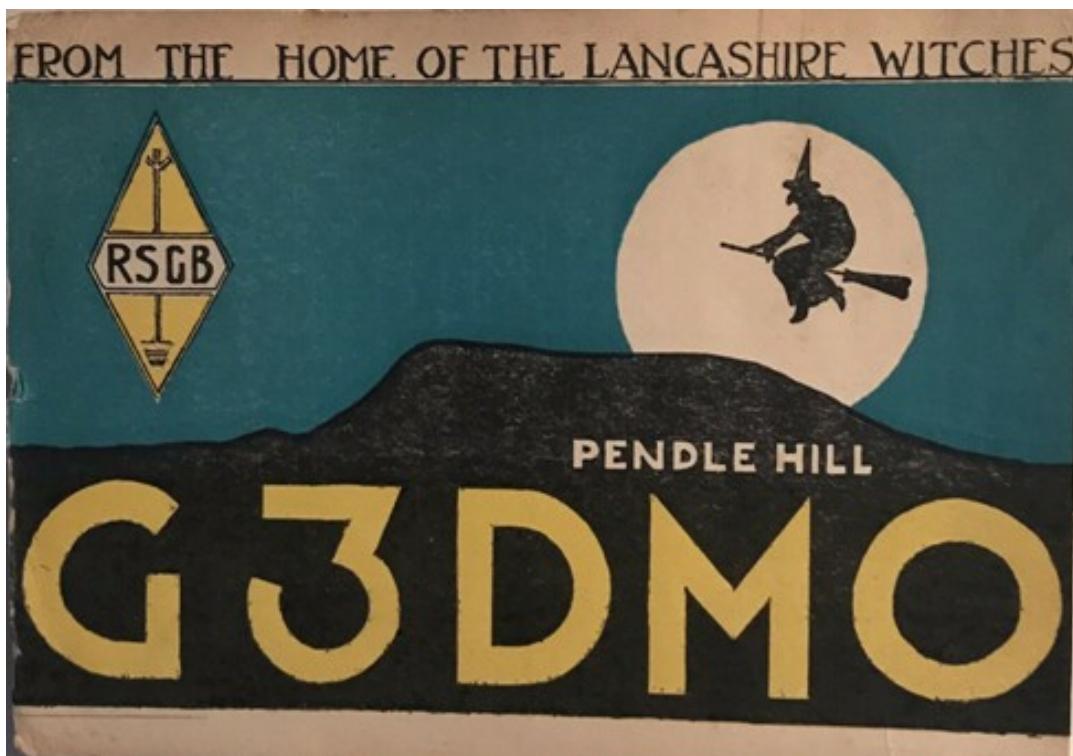
Witches are a Halloween staple, and these cards are some fine examples from America's famous witch city, Salem, Massachusetts:



The Way We Were, continued



Or this, reminding us of the equally famous Pendle Witches of Lancashire, England:

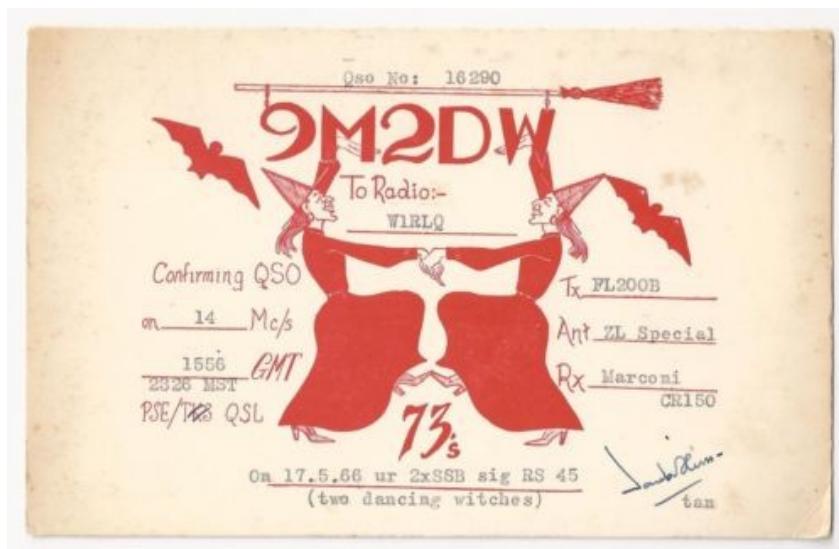


The Way We Were, continued

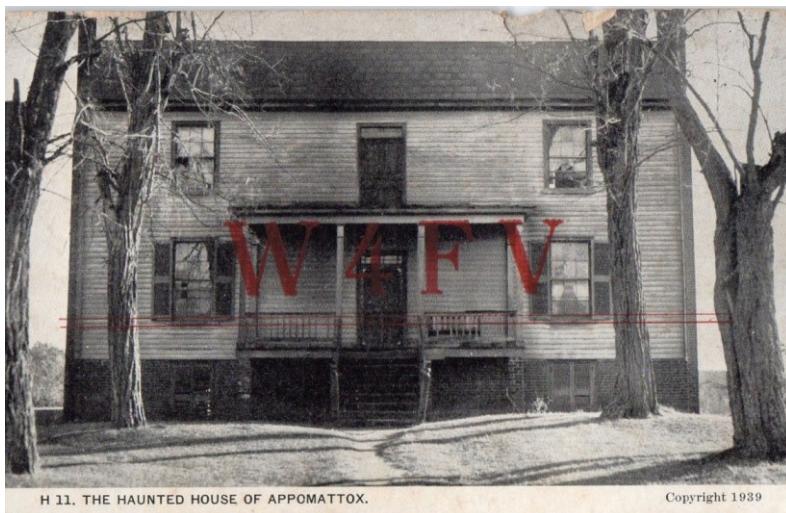
The Pendle Witches' story is not widely known in this country, but there are several online sources that may be consulted. Witch fever started after James I returned from a trip to Denmark, much influenced by his discoveries of the "craft" in that country. In England, prejudice played the greatest part in promoting witch fever; prejudices directed against people in rural areas, where the "old religion" of

paganism was still being practiced, and female "wise women" who worked as healers, as well as anti-Catholic fervor which was common in England since the Reformation, and particularly in Lancashire, where there were many practicing, though secret, Catholics.

For an excellent summary of the history of the Pendle witches and the background leading up to the famous witch trials in Lancashire, see Note [1], below. Now, here's an unusual one. It's from 9M2DW in Malaysia, dated 1966, and reflecting the call's phonetics, "2 Dancing Witches."



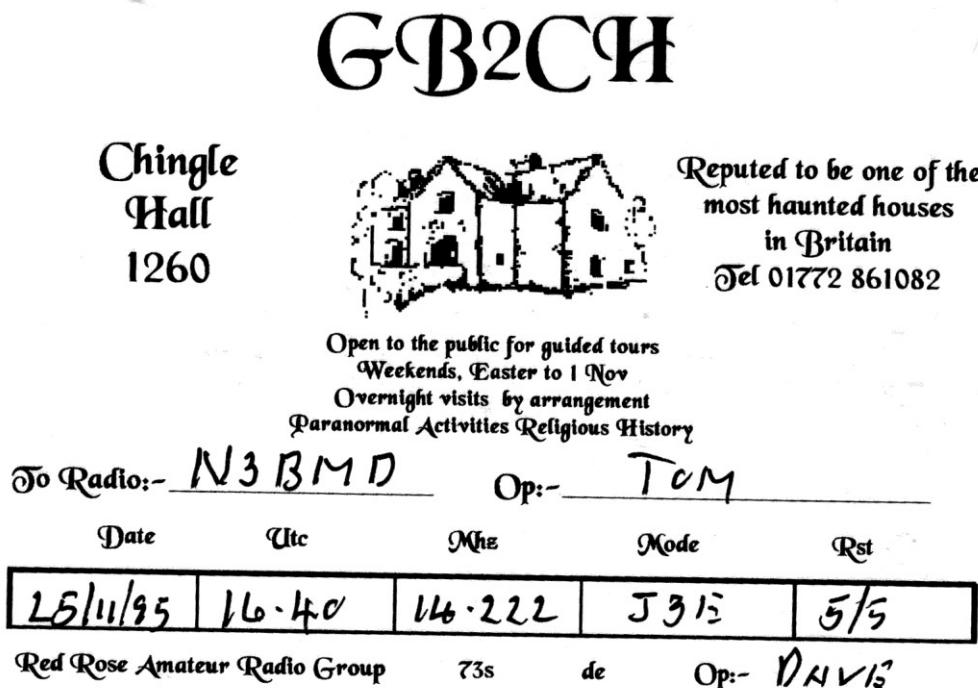
How about another great Halloween staple—haunted houses? Here's one...



The Way We Were, continued

This mysterious structure is labeled, "The Haunted House of Appomattox," and the image dated 1939. I can find no further information about it. If anyone can correctly identify it, or provide additional information, please contact your columnist.

In England, there are many haunted houses, but Chingle Hall, built in the year 1260 is reputed to be one of the most haunted. In 1995, a Special Event station was operated there under the call GB2CH....



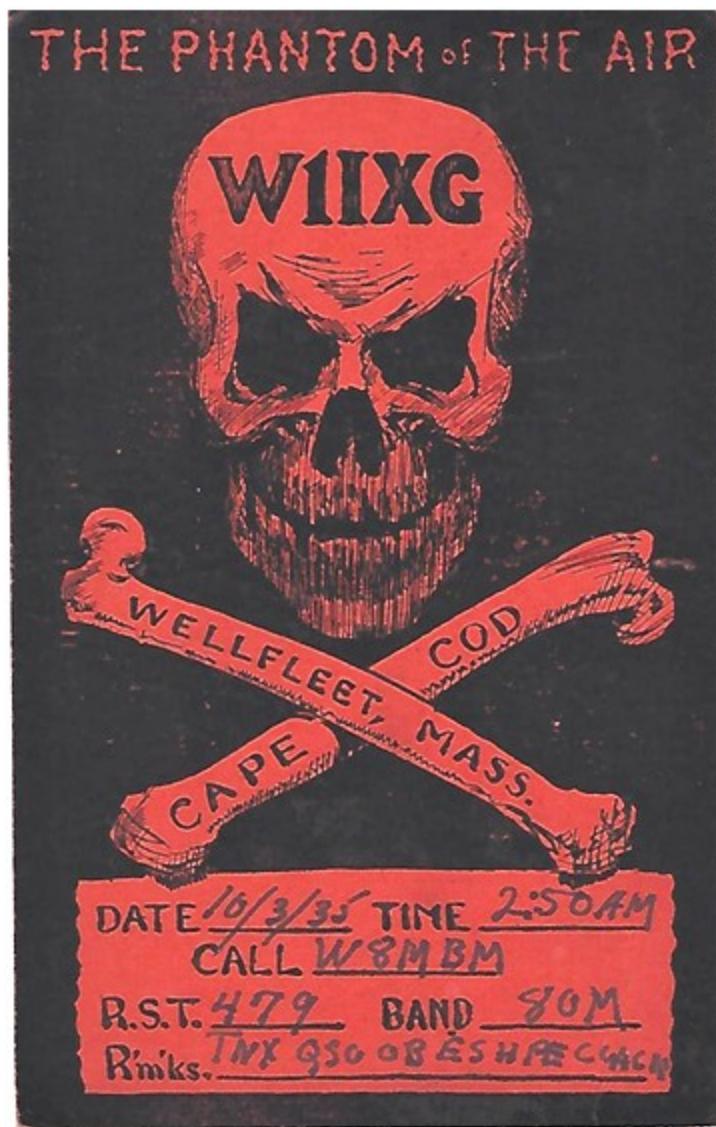
The story of Chingle Hall and its ancient origins is an interesting one. More information can be found in Note [2], and for some clear pictures, see Note [3].

Halloween is actually "All Hallows Eve," whose origins lay deep in the mists of Celtic pagan history as Samhain (pronounced "SOW-in"), later adapted in Western Christendom as the evening before All Saints' Day (November 1st), to honor Saints, followed by All Souls Day on November 2, to honor deceased loved ones.

The theme of death has been expressed in various ways on the QSL cards of amateur radio operators around the world, sometimes with skulls and skeletons, similar objects, both serious and not so serious.

The Way We Were, continued

Here's one from W1IXG in Wellfleet, Massachusetts dating from October, 1935.



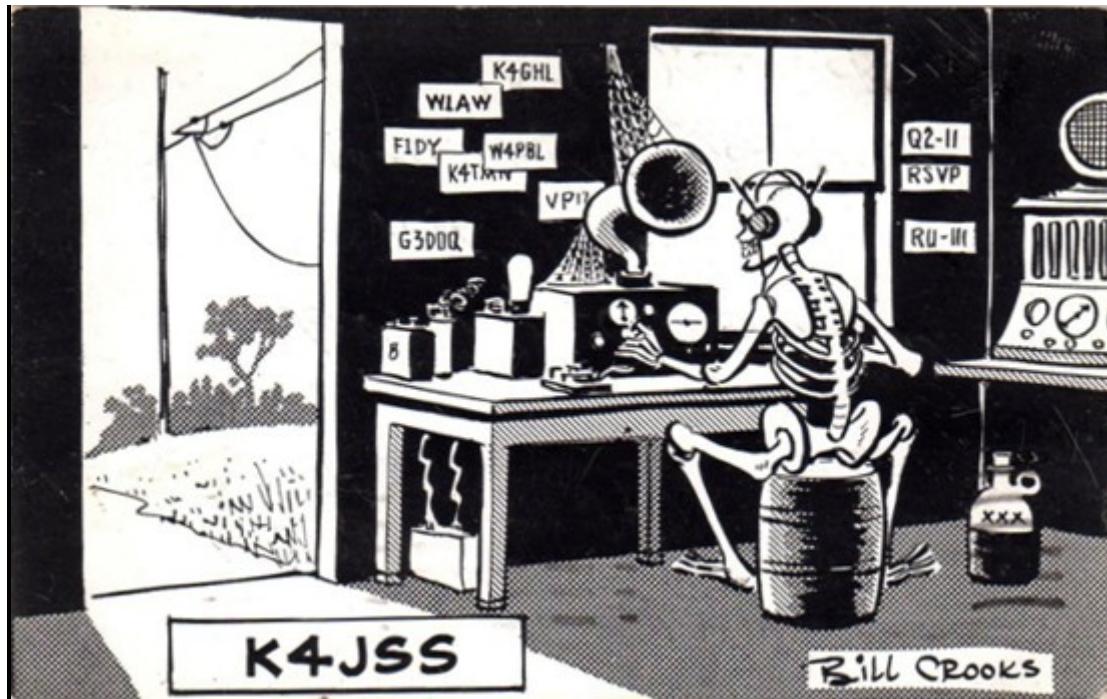
But most of those using the theme of death take a far less serious approach. There are several examples of these, such as this rather disturbing humorous take on the subject from a physician in El Salvador, showing a doctor dancing with a skeleton. [next page]. The Spanish "Yo soy 1 alegre galeno" translates as, "I'm a happy doctor."

I don't think I'd call him if I ever needed medical attention, though.

The Way We Were, continued



Or, this one from K4JSS in Orlando, Florida from 1962:



The Way We Were, continued

There was even a Special Event station with the call YL75ID, operated by YL1WW from a place called the Island of Death in Latvia in 1990:



The story of this place is interesting, and I quote directly from the back of the card:

In autumn 1915 the Russian-German front of... World War I reached the left bank of the Daugava River in Latvia. Day and night battles caused heavy losses to both the opposing sides. In October 1916 during a surprise gas attack over 4,000 Russian soldiers lost their lives there. The Latvian riflemen who got involved in all these battles repulsed all the attacks and took a firm hold of their positions until July 1917 when the High Command ordered to leave them. Due to the severe fighting and heavy losses the peninsula was named naves sala – the “Island of Death,” or “Verdun of the Eastern Front.”

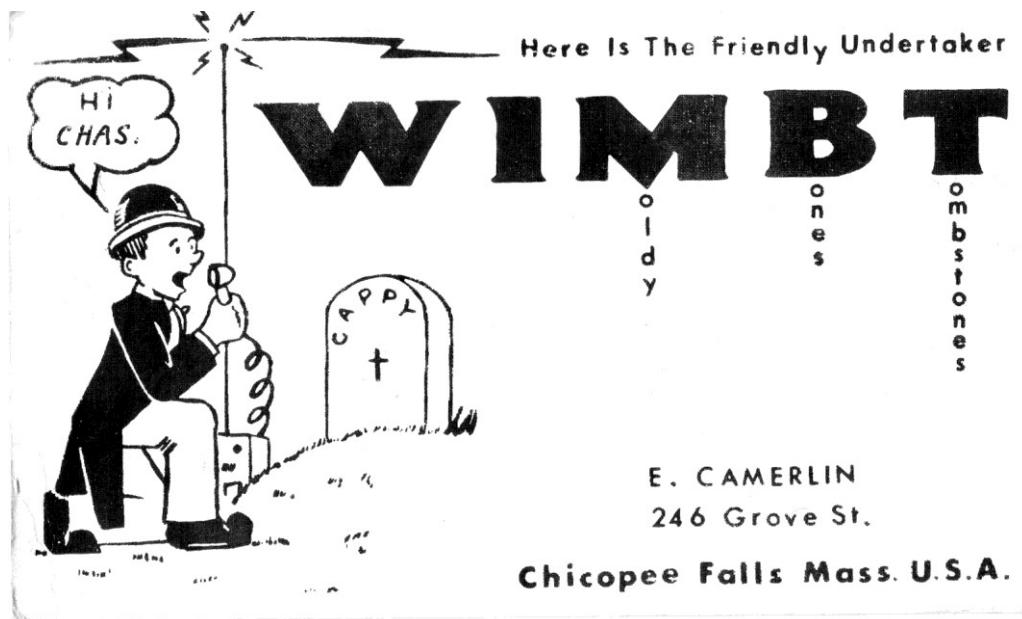
The Special Event commemorates the 75th anniversary of World War I, and specifically the “struggle of the Latvian Riflemen defending their homeland.”

The Way We Were, continued

For a lighter look, here's a unique take on the art of QSL-ing from HB9AIJ in Switzerland. He pokes fun at those who are late in sending their card in reply to one already received...



Now, that's what I'd call a *very late* QSL. But where would we be without our morticians? After all, these professionals provide an essential service...



The Way We Were, continued

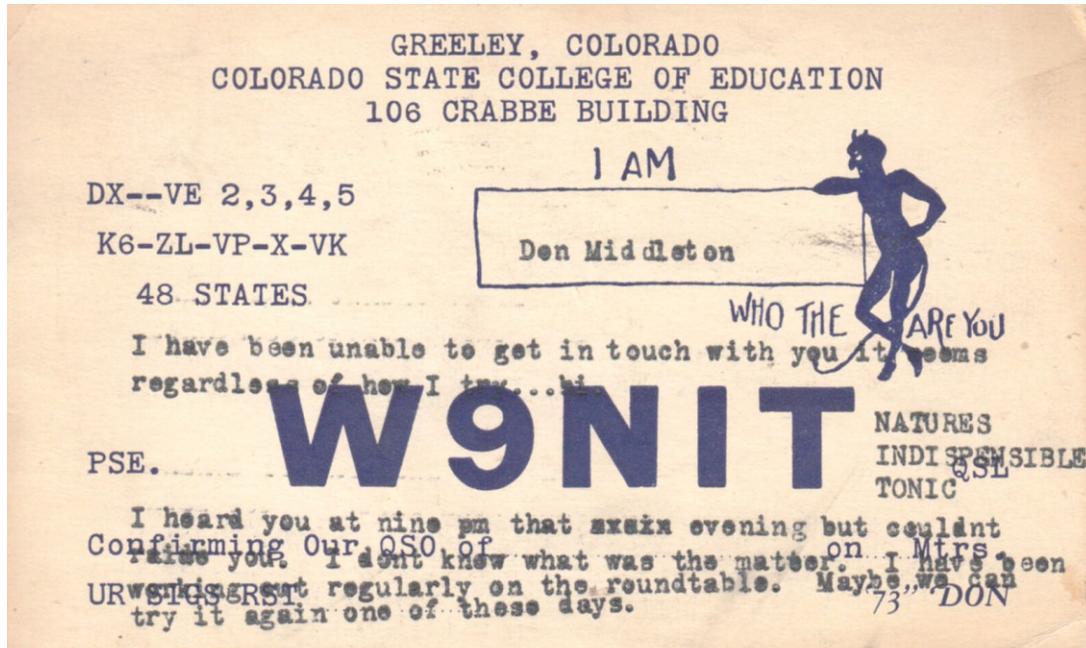
For an even lighter look at this unmentionable subject, here's W3LST's card...



But Halloween doesn't only suggest ghosts, skeletons, and witches on broomsticks. There is the undercurrent of dark, evil deeds done by imps, wraiths, demons and devils.

These images are always expressed in a humorous or semi-humorous vein, as shown in the following examples...

The Way We Were, continued



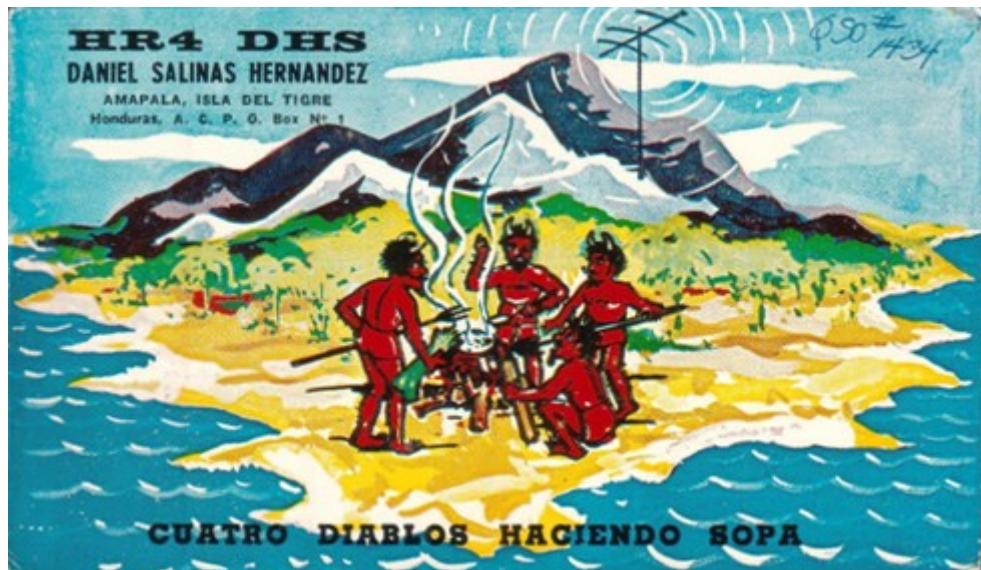
W9NIT asks, "Who the Devil are You?" (1940)



VE6 "Infernal Noise" from 1965 shows a type of character often heard on the phone bands at night!

The Way We Were, continued

Here's a fascinating one from HR4DHS on Isla del Tigre (Tiger Island), Honduras in 1968:



The image is “Cuatro diablos hacienda sopa” (four devils making soup). I can't help wondering what ingredients are being used to make that concoction!

Another curious one is this, from CX1DY in Uruguay in 1968, upon which the operator wrote, “1 (uno) Diablito Yuyero,” expressing phonetics for the “DY” in his call.



The Way We Were, continued

"1 (uno) Diablito Yuyero" is "A little devil herbalist." Note the fire, mortar and pestle, and the branches of plants at right as well as the "devilish" figure with microphone, at left.

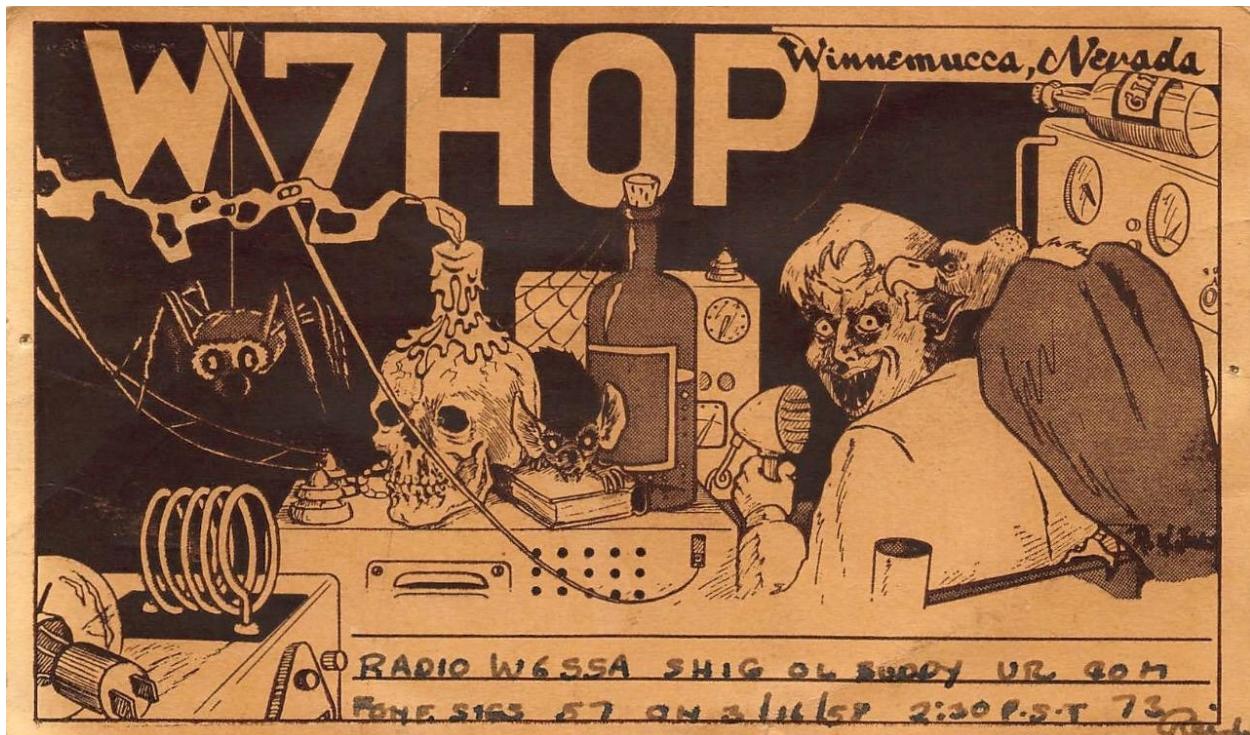
If this seems unusual to you, please remember that some parts of the world rely equally upon natural, traditional healing methods as on the practitioners of "Western" medicine. We have herbalists in the United States, too. The main difference between them is that Western medicine declares itself to be "science based," that is, based upon scientific knowledge and theory, while natural healing is "results based;" that is, based upon a long tradition of things known to "work." Actually, many of our pharmaceuticals are derived from plant sources, but they are patented and sold at much higher prices!

Shifting gears, we have some other unusual images on cards, like this one from VE6CG in the province of Alberta. Here, there is a play upon the "CG" in the call to illustrate the idea of a "Confused Gremlin."



The Way We Were, continued

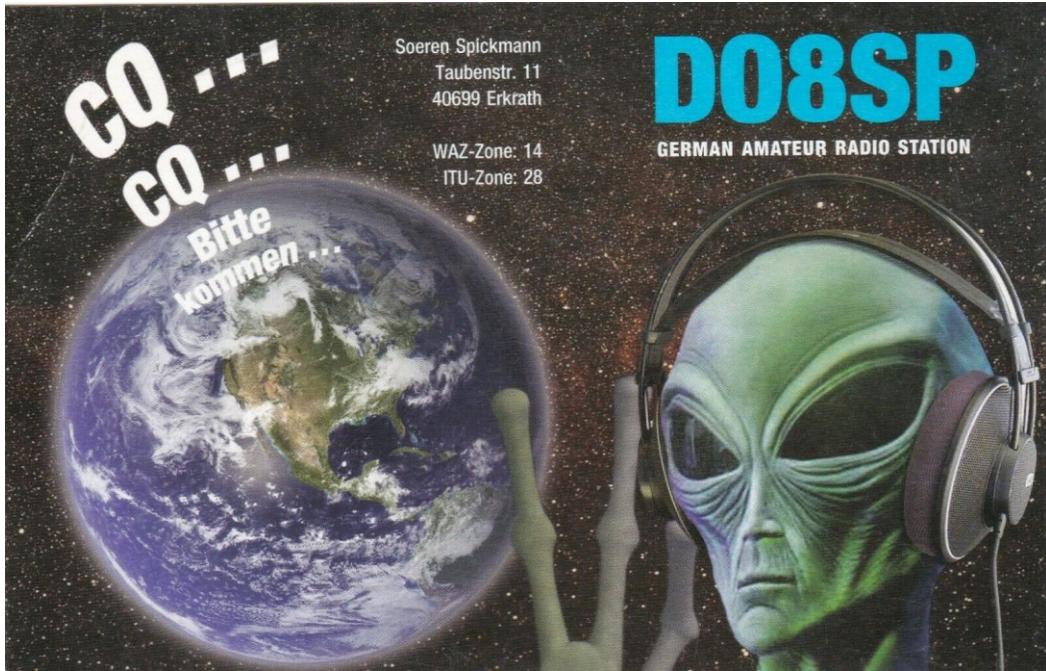
And this "ghoulish" character at the rig of W7HOP in 1958:



And there is also the otherworldly, expressed in the form of aliens....



The Way We Were, continued

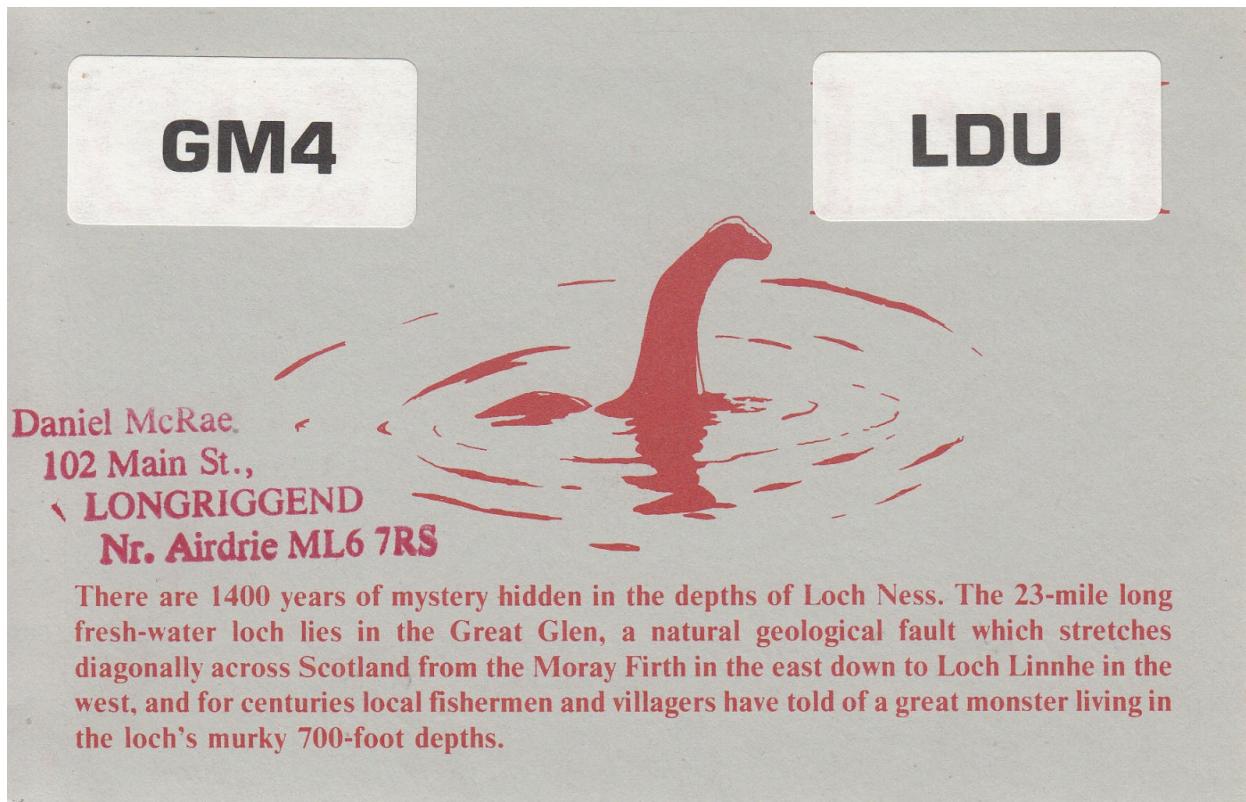


And how could we neglect harpies, vampires, and monsters, as they appear on this unusual QSL from W3HVM in Maryland, dated 1975:



The Way We Were, continued

Speaking of monsters, there's this from Bonnie Scotland...



After all that, we'll end on a much lighter note. Those of you of a "certain age" will surely remember this classic moment in the history of American television in 1965:



The Way We Were, continued

The rig that Herman used, by the way, was a World War II surplus transmitter. My memory is a little hazy, but I believe it was a much cannibalized AN/ART-13. One of my uncles once had one of those, and I used it a couple of times to work some DX on 20 meters. In retrospect, that rig really was a monster!

Side notes: According to current FCC records, the following are real calls: W1TCH (a YL in California); W1CCA (an OM, also in California); and N1GHT (an OM in Maine). Other unique calls are WOMAN (a YL in Virginia), and WOMEN (an OM in Idaho). My favorite, though, is WE1RD (an OM in Indiana, whose name is Obadiah, and who may or may not be a prophet).

Until next month, 73,

Fred W2AAB

NOTES:

[1] "The Pendle Witches," *The History Press*, at: <https://www.thehistorypress.co.uk/articles/the-pendle-witches/>

[2] Wikipedia article: "Chingle Hall," at: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chingle_Hall

[3]"Lancashire Haunted Houses: Chilling Chingle Hall," at:
http://www.bbc.co.uk/lancashire/content/image_galleries/chingle_hall_gallery.shtml

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

Thanks to Nomar, NP4H, for approving my Spanish translations and for advice on Uruguayan herbalist tradition.

October DX Report

By: The Old DX'er

October has been a busy month with DX. The following stations have been logged or worked on the 20 meter band but only during hours of darkness:

BONES	GHOUL	Frankly, I don't hold out too much hope for getting QSLs from these.
BLOOD	HOB	I think they may be only phantoms.
BOOOO	HORNS	
D1RGE	LA/MORTE	73,
EV1L	SMOKE	The Old DX'er
GORE	SPOOKY	
GHOST	S8TAN	

DMR Special Interest Group Update

The DMR SIG is going well. We have a great group with many new to DMR and have been helped by the others with DMR experience to get up and running. Now the previous new to DMR are helping those just getting started.

We are still using TalkGroup 310015. We will use this traffic data to show the DMR administrator that we have enough interest to get a dedicated FLARC DMR TalkGroup. 310015 is only available via HotSpot right now.

We have been having about 6 check-ins to the FLARC DMR. Presently the FLARC DMR Net is on TalkGroup 310015 on Tuesday Evenings at 9:00pm after the NorthStar Digital Net which is on TalkGroup 31630. The FLARC DMR Net will start after the NorthStar Digital Net is completed. It is suggested to check the NorthStar Digital Net if you do not hear the FLARC DMR Net going on. To get onto either of these nets a HotSpot is required at this time. Those going from one net to the other, don't forget to disconnect from one TalkGroup with TalkGroup 4000 before proceeding to the new TalkGroup. This is a DMR HotSpot thing. Come join the DMR SIG to learn more.

DMR does not need to be expensive or complicated with the help of the FLARC DMR SIG. A dual band HT radio is under \$100.00 and also does analog. Many on the DMR SIG are also willing to help out anyone getting up and running with a DMR radio and even help with information on how to build a HotSpot for about \$50.00.

For those interested join in on all the DMR excitement! Contact Bob H. KD2BKD@optonline.net for information on joining. Or just go to the club website FairLawnARC.org and use the "Join Special Interest Group(s)" link on left.

DE Bob KD2BKD

Radio Monitoring Special Interest Group Update

Fall has started here in the northern hemisphere. Along with the change of seasons those of us who monitor the RF spectrum experience seasonal changes as well particularly on the 80 and 160 meter ham band and the standard broadcast band.

Noise levels significantly drop allowing weak signals to come up out of the noise floor into our waiting receivers.

To those of us who started our journey in the radio spectrum on the broadcast band this is a special time.

I still remember the days back in the sixties when I first discovered the joys of Dxing. I would stay up till all hours with my trusty Vornado 6 transistor radio secreted under my pillow, listening to the 50 kilowatt blasters from all over north America and beyond.

As my knowledge of propagation grew I learned about ground wave, skywave and auroral and how they affected broadcast listening.

Over the intervening years I was able to roughly predict what to expect during a typical Fall and Winter broadcast band Dx Season.

In my years of broadcast band monitoring I have heard interesting stories of people who traveled to parts of the world where the propagation was extremely differed from what I experienced here in New Jersey.

On Friday October 30 at 8 PM we will have the pleasure of meeting a person who has done just that.

Paul Walker is a professional broadcaster as well as an accomplished broadcast band dixer. He has had the unusual experience of Dxing in Alaska, a place that is totally different from the typical Dx locations we are used to.

Paul will bring us video and audio samples of his Alaskan adventures and his unique Bcb Dx perspective, as well as some interesting antidotes of living and working in the high arctic.

Watch your E-Mail for the instructions on how to access this meeting in the club's Zoom Room.

It will prove to be an interesting and enjoyable learning experience.

73 and good Dxing. DE Dave N2AAM

DMR Radio to DMR Network via Smartphone

By Bob Holstrom – KD2BKD

I hope to explain how one can use a DMR radio to access the DMR network via a cell phone data plan. I only have access and experience with Android Smartphone, but others have done this with ‘i’ products.

First let’s talk about the 2 different types of HotSpots we will be using. One HotSpot the DMR radio uses and the other the cell service uses to connect to the Internet.

The radio HotSpot will be called the “DMR” HotSpot. The “DMR” HotSpot has a radio built into it to receive and transmit to the DMR radio. Many use the MMDVM board connected atop of a Raspberry Pi. The “DMR” HotSpot transfers the radio’s voice data to a computer (can be a Raspberry Pi) to the Internet to get onto the DMR network.

The cell phone HotSpot will be called the “Mobile Data” HotSpot. In the settings menu on a smartphone there is a “Hotspot” selection. This turns the smartphone’s Wi-Fi to be used as an access point for other Wi-Fi devices to use the mobile data plan to access the Internet.

Internet is required for access the DMR network. At home you would use your home Wi-Fi or wired Ethernet connection for Internet access. When using the smartphone’s “Mobile Data” HotSpot option you can also access the Internet. You will need to know the SSID (Wi-Fi network name) of the smartphone and the password. Some have had problems using the default passwords used on ‘i’ devices and had to be simplified, especially removing special characters. The SSID and password information need to be put into the “DMR” HotSpot configuration so it can connect to the smartphone’s Wi-Fi. Some have had trouble with the “DMR” HotSpot connecting to their smartphone. My suggestion is to get away from your home Wi-Fi before powering up the “DMR” HotSpot so it will only see one possible Wi-Fi on its configuration.

Diagram from the DMR radio to DMR network using mobile (cellular) data is below:



Can you drink a "Beverage" antenna ?

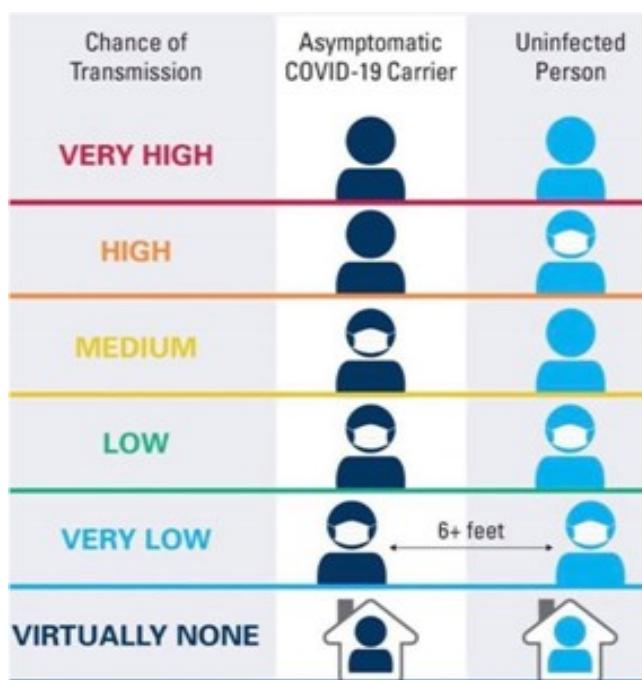
A Beverage antenna consists of a horizontal wire from one-half to several wavelengths long (hundreds of feet at HF to several kilometres for longwave) suspended above the ground, with the feedline to the receiver attached to one end, and the other end of the Beverage terminated through a resistor to ground. The antenna has a unidirectional radiation pattern with the main lobe of the pattern at a shallow angle into the sky off the resistor-terminated end, making it ideal for reception of long distance skywave (skip) transmissions from stations over the horizon which reflect off the ionosphere. However the antenna must be built so the wire points at the location of the transmitter. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beverage_antenna]
The antenna was designed by Harold Beverage in 1919.

With great plans to try working 160 meters, Van W2DLT had a 550 foot Beverage antenna installed at his PA QTH on September 28th. W2KBF, W2JC, W2MC and Lou Drewes (a long-time friend of Van) all helped with the installation -- tromping through the woods and swamp, tacking insulators to the trees, driving ground rods, etc.

At the same time, John W2GD (an expert antenna installer) was working on Van's tower.



Jim W2JC attaching Beverage wire
to insulator 8-feet up on tree



Photos thanks to Karl W2KBF ==>



John W2GD working on Van's tower with new beam

Member Profile, continued

Ham radio has always been a part of my life. Wherever I have lived I have always found a way to get on the air. I have been off HF for a while after an antenna blew down and am now in the process of getting back on HF with a new vertical antenna and remote tuner, quite a long running project. At the moment I am struggling with the radials and burying the coax back to the house. I look forward to passing the long winter's nights to come chasing DX, contesting and rag chewing both on HF and VHF, as well as getting active on FT-8.

What other ham related clubs or organizations do you belong to?

Besides being a member of the ARRL, the only ham radio club I belong to is FLARC.



Jim W2KNG



FLARC'ers Sighted At Gloucester County ARC Hamfest—September 12th

"Neither snow nor rain nor gloom of pandemic shall stay these radio amateurs from the Hamfest".

The Hamfest started at 8 and the parking lot was more than half full by 8:30 AM.

Brian KD2KLN, Karl W2KBF and the K2KJI crew were spotted.



A lot of hams in SNJ



Some old familiar faces seen again – the K2KJI crew



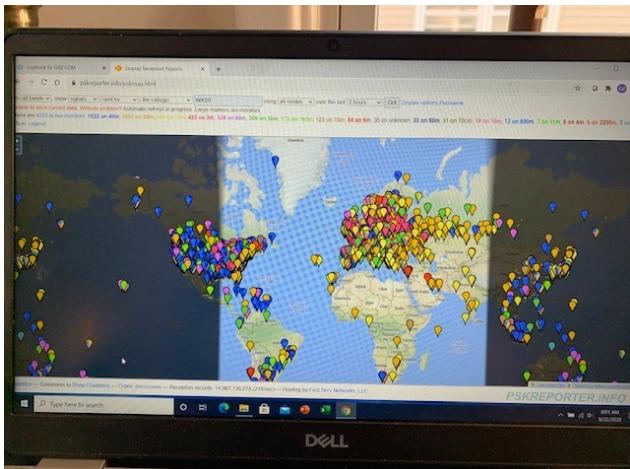
Brian KD2KLN and Karl W2KBF
(Not Socially Distanced!)

Tnx Karl W2KBF for the pix

Day Equals Night

The Earth works. Here's the view on September 22nd at 0811 EDT at the start of Autumn via PSKreporter.

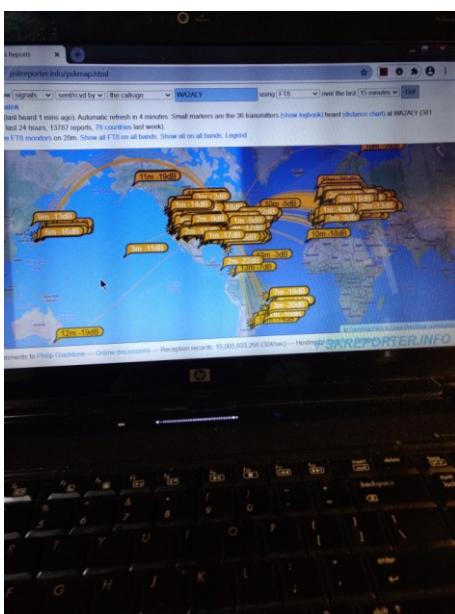
Good DX to you.



The Autumnal Equinox – September 22, 2020

Happy Fall! WA2ALY Works Six Continents

And here's good dx! It's not the first time, but the equinox (September 22nd) makes it more special... 100 watts, inverted L antenna. Looks like those radials work.



WA2ALY On 6 Continents

Parks On The Air (POTA) Special Interest Group

The FLARC Portable Ops SIG is doing well, with members sharing information related to this aspect of the hobby. I had a successful POTA activation of Stephens State Park K-1631, Jim W2JC shared a video of a portable loop antenna and Steve KA2YRA shared a video of a SOTA presentation for the RSGB. I would like to do some POTA activations with some of the members with the intentions of eventually doing a multi park activation. Let me know via the FLARC net or via email directly.

Interested in joining this group?
Head over to FLARC groups.io and join up!!

73, Noel-W2MSA



At Deadline: *Kudos For The Resonator*

We're flattered and humbled when we get a nice comment about our little newsletter.

Greg K1UH from Tenafly and Massachusetts wrote:

"... And the FLARC newsletter is often more interesting to read than some of the monthly issues of ARRL QST mag. IMHO".

Greg, thanks for the wonderful compliment!!

DE Ed WX2R

Fair Lawn RACES/ARES Corner, cont.

FL-ARES would like to thank the FLARC for the use of its repeater as well as the Venture Crew 73 73 Club for the use of their repeater.

We are fortunate to make Fair Lawn and the surrounding communities our home. With our leadership and support from the FLARC we can grow and be of assistance in many community events. We are always seeking new members to join FL-ARES.

Please sign up for various nets and activities taking place at the following email address:

<https://arrl.volunteerhub.com/lp/nnj>

Info on FL-RACES is as follows:

Our next FL-RACES KB2FLR net will take place on Wednesday, October 7th at 2015 hours on the Fair Lawn ARC Repeater as well as the NJ2BS Repeater (frequencies noted above). Thank you to the Fair Lawn Amateur Radio Club for permitting FL-RACES for using the repeater.

I would like to thank the FL RACES participants who participated on the DoD/MARS COMEX 20-4 SETS activities on Saturday, October 3rd.

FL-RACES is part of several RACES groups which operate within Bergen County and from time to time has training opportunities with Bergen County RACES. We will be the Net Control Operating Station for the BC-RACES Net once again in November. Further details will follow.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, our monthly briefings take place during the FLARC business meeting. Please join us for the next FL-RACES briefing. The volunteer efforts of our members are very much appreciated.

If you are interested in joining the Fair Lawn RACES, please contact me. Anyone who's a licensed amateur radio operator may join Fair Lawn RACES and there's no residential requirement.

For information regarding Bergen County RACES, please go to <http://www.bcnjraces.org>.

Please be safe and well. Thank you very much. 73.

David KD2MOB

Earhart Found – John W2JLH Tells The Story As FLARC Kawfee Tawks Head Into Autumn

With an audience of nearly 50 in the Zoom Room, John W2JLH led the October *Kawfee Tawk* series into the realm of historical radio and the long - speculated whereabouts of aviator Amelia Earhart.

Focusing on the radio capabilities of the expedition, John offered the premise that the 1937 planned around-the-world trip was snake-bit from the start. How could such planning for "Lady Lindy" go so wrong?

Issues with antennas, radio, navigation, the lack of a solid CW operator and compromises in equipment which impacted safety all played a part of the tragedy – leaving her and her crew to die as castaways.

John pointed out many of the "myths vs. realities" of the flight - from those who claimed to have heard the crew (falsely in some cases) to "Betty in Miami" who documented her monitoring of Earhart's call for help from the South Pacific, which she heard on a frequency harmonic.

A good show and W2JLH has a way of telling a story in an interesting and provocative way. A big thanks to him for the presentation and the many comments and inquiries which accompanied it.

The slide deck is available on request from W2JLH.



Amelia Earhart, March 1937

Theoretics Demystified

Last time the subject was basic electricity. This time we will go further. Hams are always talking about things being resonant. What does that mean, you ask? Simply put, it means that a repeating occurrence (think of the water lapping at the edge of a lake or something vibrating back and forth) that matches the ability of an object to vibrate with it or in electronics, the ability of a circuit to pass it. The key here is that the object that matches the resonant frequency of a vibration or an object that is caused to vibrate at a frequency that matches the resonant frequency can be destroyed by that object being vibrated at that matching frequency.

That is what happened to the Tacoma Narrows bridge Galloping Gertie as it was called. Winds caused the bridge to vibrate in waves which tore it apart! Getting back to electronics, but first. Did you ever fill a bucket or watering can and hear the pitch of the inrushing water change and get higher in pitch as the can filled? That was the resonant frequency changing as the air cavity grew smaller as the bucket was filled!

In electronics when a signal is impressed into a circuit that matches to resonant frequency of that circuit, the signal is accepted and passed through that circuit or is accepted by that circuit. If it is not matching, then that signal is wasted or rejected. This is how a radio is tuned!! You are selecting a given signal and rejecting all others. When your radio's input circuitry matches the transmitter's frequency then the rest of that radio's circuitry can process that signal. Frequency is exactly what it means. In radio it is the measure of how many times per second an electro-magnetic wave vibrates between its most positive and most negative values.

Hence, the higher the frequency, the shorter each wave is. That is why as you go up in frequency, the antennas get smaller to match the size of the incoming wave. Very low frequency antennas can be several miles long and the antennas in your cellphone very, very small and your Wi-Fi and Bluetooth antennas almost seem microscopic!



Theoretics Demystified, continued

When you put together a coil of a certain dimension and a capacitor of a certain value, you end up with a tuned circuit for a given frequency.

For the practical side of this, an antenna tuner is an example of a variable tuned circuit whose function it is to take a non-resonant antenna that is not physically the proper dimensions to match the incoming signal in wave length and to transform it into a resonant signal that the receiver can process. The same thing is true in reverse for a transmitting radio. The transmitter must match the resonance of its transmitting antenna in order to put out a useable signal.

To reiterate, this is how a radio is tuned, you are choosing a certain signal and rejecting all others. To demonstrate things being in resonance with each other, if you were to whistle in an echoey room and your whistle was at the room's resonant frequency, the echo back would be louder and sustained. Other whistle notes would be much softer. In that case you're involved in mechanical resonance. When it comes to radio you are dealing with electro magnetic resonance.

Today resonant or tuned circuits are gradually being supplanted by digital processing but not eliminated. The methodology is changing but the application is not. Next time you tune your car radio, you are changing the resonant input frequency and the next time you are filling a water pitcher, listen to the change in the frequency of sound.

Again, frequency is the amount if times something happens per second and resonance occurs when a signal or sound matches the input frequency of a tuned circuit or the physical characteristics of a given space. The transmitter's and receiver's frequency must match to have communication.

Next time maybe we will discuss types of early and present radio communication.

73!

Frederick Wawra, W2ABE.

November 13th Kawfee Tawk To Feature Alan Wolke W2AEW and An Overview Of Nano VNA

Alan Wolke W2AEW will be our next Kawfee Tawk speaker on Friday, November 13th at 7:30 PM EDT in the Zoom Room.

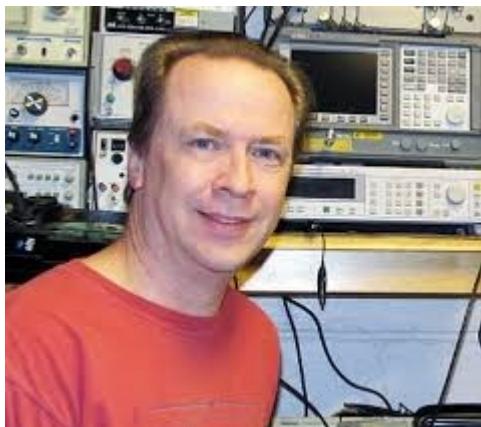
Alan's topic will be "An Intro to Nano VNA". For those of you who haven't seen/tried one of these Vector Network Analyzers (VNA) called NanoVNA they are an excellent and inexpensive (~\$50-100) tool that can do the following functions (and more):

- Measure Coax Length
- Locate fault in cable like a TDR
- Measure filters
(bandpass, high/low pass, etc)
- Sweep antennas and other
RF networks

Alan is no stranger to FLARC. His in-person presentation at the Fair Lawn Senior Center was one of the highest attended events and his video still generates lots of YouTube views.

Plan to be at your laptop or tablet on October 23rd for this great technical presentation... and also to plan to put an item on this year's holiday list for the XYL.

Note: This program is tentative at deadline.



Alan Wolke W2AEW

New Wednesday Night Net

With the suspension of the nightly *Health and Welfare* net (see accompanying story), the club has announced the creation of a second weekly net to maintain camaraderie during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The *Health and Welfare Umbrella Net* will meet every Wednesday at 7PM local time . Dave KD2MOB announced that "We had seven check ins. Eight including net control. Not bad for opening night. We will be hoping for an even better turnout next Wednesday.... and Wednesday's thereafter. Hopefully, there will be no further pandemic lockdowns which would predicate a re-start of a nightly net.

Find the net on the W2NPT repeater (145.470-PL167.9) and the linked NJ2BS repeater as well.

Check-in every Wednesday at 19:00 local time!!

A Record Number of FLARC Contributors To The Resonator!!

Thanks this month to:

**W2AAB
KD2MOB
W2MSA
K2BKD
W2ABE
KD2KLN
N4GG
N2AAM
WA2ALY
W2KBF**



In A Nutshell

Well hopefully things are getting better-- there is more personal activity but with plenty of caution.

Speaking of caution, I just put up a new antenna and the paramount thing that was kept in mind was safety. You need to take it slow and be aware of your surroundings. Now that the summer heat is gone it is easier to work in midday sun. Lay out your work, take it slow and pay attention to detail. It is easy to try to rush to get it done but better to get it right the first time.

As it is, antennas usually need adjustments and do require periodic maintenance after being put up and being installed. Do not be afraid to ask for help or at least advice from fellow hams. Getting back to things around us, test sessions for ham licenses are back in several areas. Nets and 'rag chewing' sessions are alive and well on 75 meters!

Get on the air and TALK to someone. There have been hamfests and radio shows that have been held with proper precautions. So get out and enjoy the warm weather before the cold and snow sets in!



HamCation will be moved to February 11-13, 2022. We are looking to host some unique webinars and a QSO Party for 2021. More information will be posted on our website soon.

For those who have already purchased tickets and spaces, we will be in contact with you shortly and will reach out to you directly. You will have the option to use your ticket for HamCation 2022, receive a refund or donate the funds to the Orlando Amateur Radio Club.

You can read ARRL and HamCation's joint statement [here](#). We thank all of you for your patience and understanding during these times and are excited to see you all again in 2022.

73, HamCation

Monitoring SIG To Feature

DX'ing In Alaska With Paul Walker

On October 30th

On October 30th we are honored to have Paul Walker from Laramie, WY who will discuss his time DX'ing in Alaska.

Paul is a well-known DX'er who contributes regularly to DX groups and has recently joined the Courtesy Programming Committee of the IRCA-NRC which establishes DX tests from radio stations.

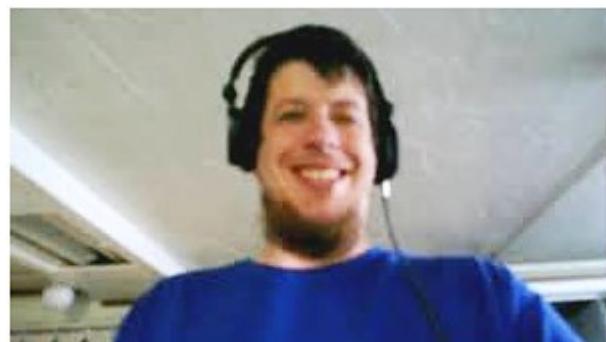
You'll learn that it was a very unique situation with some special considerations one might not have to deal with elsewhere. He says that he spent a lot of time and money radio experimenting there and has had some pretty amazing results. He will also briefly discuss what it was like as a radio broadcaster in Alaska and the technical challenges he faced in the course of doing business every day.

**Note a change in start time...
8PM EDT instead of 7:30 ET**

**We are inviting DX'ers worldwide to join us
so registration is required.**

Register in advance for the meeting:

<http://bit.ly/DXfmAlaska>



Paul Walker

October 2020 FLARC Business Meeting

President Nomar NP4H called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. on a video conference.

The group recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Secretary Randy WU2S called the roll of officers and trustees and all were present except Treasurer Al WA2OWL and Trustee Don K2PD. The meeting had a quorum to conduct club business.

Secretary Randy WU2S announced that the minutes from the September meeting were sent to all members of record and published in the club's newsletter, The Resonator, which is on the club's website at <http://newsletters.FairLawnARC.org>. He asked the members present if there were any corrections or amendments needed. There were none so Stan KC2K moved to accept the minutes as published and Steve KA2YRA seconded the motion. The motion passed by acclamation.

In the absence of Treasurer Al WA2OWL, Secretary Randy WU2S presented the Treasurer's report.

Ed WX2R reported for the Publicity Committee. He began by thanking the 11 contributors (a new record) to this month's Resonator newsletter. They are: W2AAB, KD2MOB, W2MSA, KD2BKD, W2ABE, KD2KLN, N4GG, N2AAM, WA2ALY, W2KBF. Thanks to all.

Ed added that all speaker programs at the Senior Center and other public events are cancelled up to and including Thanksgiving and presumably the remainder of 2020. We will attempt to continue to publish The Resonator on a regular schedule until year end. Ria N2RJ is our December Kawfee Tawk speaker.

Jim W2JC reported that the FLARC website is up-to-date and our Special Interest Groups (SIGs) are doing well. There has been some discussion of a DX SIG and this group needs a leader to get it started. There has been no QSL card activity.

Dave KD2MOB reported for ARES/RACES that there will be a Simulated Emergency Test (SET) on Saturday October 3. Dave gave the frequencies and times for the exercise. Karl W2KBF added that there will be a national ARES test of Winlink during the Saturday exercise.

Vice President John W2JLH reported that he received and tested his new fox transmitter. He plans to arrange a foxhunt, possibly at Garrett Mountain. John said that he will work with Aly ALØY to plan this activity.

October 2020 FLARC Business Meeting, continued

Gene WO2W reported that the outdoor VE exam sessions are going well. The next VE exam session is scheduled for October 17. Candidates must be pre-registered to attend. Gene said that he has 5 candidates for the October session registered so far. He is looking for a suitable indoor location to hold VE session in the winter.

President Nomar NP4H asked for a motion to accept the committee reports as given. Gene WO2W so moved and Noel W2MSA seconded the motion. The motion passed by acclamation.

President Nomar NP4H announced that we would address old business next.

Gene WO2W reported that the Recreation Center walking track is open to a limited number of people. The rest of the Recreation Center remains closed.

Ed WX2R announced that Dave N2AAM, on behalf of the Radio Monitoring SIG, will host a presentation on DXing in the High Arctic given by professional broadcaster Paul Walker. The talk will be on October 30 at 8:00 pm. Contact Ed WX2R to register to attend this event. You must register to receive the meeting login credentials for this presentation.

Noel W2MSA reported that there is a portable operations challenge this weekend. He plans to be on 80 meters on Saturday.

Bob KD2BKD said that the DMR SIG is well-attended with typically 20 people checking in each week. The DMR SIG net is on Tuesday evenings on Talk Group (TG) 310015 at 9:00 pm. Bob is planning to request a dedicated talk group from Brandmeister for the FLARC DMR SIG.

President Nomar NP4H introduced new business by noting that the proposed slate of officers and trustees reported by the Nominating Committee was published last month. We will accept nominations from the floor for any of the 5 positions during the November business meeting. If you are interested in running for a position, please let President Nomar NP4H and Ed WX2R know so that we can publish your intent in the November Resonator. Nominations require a nominating member and a seconding member. The voting for the officers and trustees for 2021 will take place during our December meeting.

ThomW2NZ asked about maintaining the security of the voting process for any contested positions. Secretary Randy WU2S responded that only he has access to the meeting recordings. Randy said that if there are contested positions,

October 2020 FLARC Business Meeting, continued

members present at the December meeting will make their choices known to only Randy by using the Zoom chat message function to send a direct message to only Randy. He will then tally the votes and report back when the tally is completed. He will not reveal who voted for whom. President Nomar NP4H reminded members to be careful to send a vote ONLY to Randy and not to Everyone.

President Nomar NP4H noted that our annual auction has been cancelled. He said that there has been some discussion about holding a hamfest in the Spring. Gene WO2W volunteered to lead the effort to run the hamfest.

Gene reported the following tentative plans:

1. The proposed date is Saturday, April 24, 2021. This date will not conflict with BARA or the Dayton Hamvention.
2. The proposed site is the Fair Lawn Recycling Center on Saddle River Road. This site has one easily controlled entrance and ample parking. This proposal has not yet been discussed with the Recreation Department or other Fair Lawn officials.
3. The schedule is proposed to begin setup at 5:00 am and allow vendors to enter and setup at 7:00 am. General admission will begin at 8:00 am.
4. The proposed fees are \$5 for buyers and \$15 for one vendor space.
5. We need to consider setting up and operating a refreshment stand.
6. Since there are no toilet facilities at the site, we will need to rent 2 port-a-johns.
7. Contact Gene as soon as possible to let him know how you can help make this event happen.

Ed WX2R announced that a new ham, Tommy KD2OBY in Hawthorne, requested help in setting up a simple HF antenna. Ed said that a long ladder is needed to get to Tommy's roof. Randy WU2S said he can provide a 22-foot aluminum extension ladder but would not be available to transport it.

Karl W2KBF reported that he and Jim W2JC helped Van W2DLT install a new Beverage antenna at Van's home in Pennsylvania.

David KD2MOB reported that the FLARC daily Health and Welfare net ran for 193 consecutive days starting on March 13. Daily operation of this net has been terminated,

October 2020 FLARC Business Meeting, continued

but a weekly net will be run on Wednesdays at 7 p.m. on the club repeater.

Thom W2NZ reported that the FLARC YouTube channel added another 7 subscribers in the past month to reach a total of 481. There were 961 views of the videos during the month.

Randy WU2S gave an update on his wife's health.

Having no further business, President Nomar NP4H asked for a motion to adjourn. Fred W2ABE so moved and Brian KD2KLN seconded the motion. The members present voted in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

Secretary Randy WU2S reports that 34 members participated in this video conference business meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Randy WU2S, Secretary

From The President, continued

Also, I would like to extend my appreciation to Dave, KD2MOB and all those that made the daily FLARC Health & Welfare net a huge success. For almost 200 days we stayed together and offered a valuable service to our members and friends.

The net will now be weekly, but also other platforms will remain active in order to keep us in touch several times a week. FLARC will continue to offer the Near and Far Net on Mondays, The FLARC DMR Net on Tuesdays, The Health & Welfare Net and the FL ARES Net on Wednesday, and we will continue to carry a couple of the area nets on Thursdays.

Make sure to check in, stay active and let us know how things are going with you. Remember, if you or someone we know needs us, FLARC is ALWAYS present for our members and friends.

Check the Resonator for future presentations, Kawfee Tawks, events and more. And don't forget, we want to hear from you...

If you have any ideas, suggestions, projects that may benefit FLARC, we want to hear it. Drop me a line at np4h@arrl.net and trust me, you will be heard. Take care, stay safe and healthy & "I'll see ya' on the radio"!

73,Nomar, NP4H
FLARC President

**FLARC Member wins contest as
First Place in North America and
First Place in United States and
Second Place in THE WORLD !**

FLARC member Paul Cottone K2PJC entered the CQ World Wide WPX Contest as a "Rookie" with Low Power and he won all of the above places, plus his score of 385,616 points made an all-time high record for the USA 2nd call area. The WPX contest goal is to work as many different callsign "prefixes" as possible -- for example, W2 K2 WA2 KD2 etc. each count as a different prefix. And this was all done on CW!

We can't wait to have Paul on our club Field Day team.



The Radio Amateur's Journal
Takes pleasure in awarding this Certificate of Merit to

K2PJC

Opr: K2PJC

World Wide WPX Contest

#1 United States 2nd Call Area

Rookie

Low Power

#2 World

#1 North America

#1 United States

A Total score of 385,616 points was computed on the basis of the number of stations worked and call sign prefixes contacted. In witness of this achievement, we hereby affix our signatures on this day.

Bud French, AA3B **United States 2nd Call Area Record**

D. J. Moore, W2VU

CQ WPX Contest Director

Editor, CQ